FBIS DAILY REPORT

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DELEGATION SUBMITS DRAFT STRATEGIC ARMS TREATY

AU310942 Paris AFP in English 0939 GMT 31 Jul 87

[Text] Geneva, July 31 (AFP) -- The Soviet Union submitted a draft strategic arms reduction treaty at the disarmament talks with the United States here Thursday, the deputy head of the Soviet delegation, Alexey Obukhov, said.

However, Mr. Obukhov said that a strengthening of the current anti-ballistic missiles treaty and the prevention of an arms race in space were a precondition for reaching stability and "creating conditions for reducing strategic weapons by 50 per cent."

His statement was taken as an indication that Moscow was continuing to insist on a link between strategic arms and space weapons, which is disputed by Washington.

Ban on Space Weapons Proposal

PM301351 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Soviet Draft Agreement"]

[Text] Geneva, 29 Jul -- At today's plenary session of the delegations at the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons, the USSR delegation submitted for consideration a draft "Agreement Between the USSR and the United States on Certain Measures To Strengthen the ABM Treaty Regime and Prevent an Arms Race in Space," as well as the drafts of an associated protocol and common understandings.

The Soviet draft documents submitted today envisage a clear-cut system of commitments aimed at reaching this goal.

The Soviet side proceeds from the immutability of the ABM Treaty and proposes that agreement be reached on mutual nonwithdrawal from it for a period of 10 years, with strict observance of all the treaty's provisions.

Another important provision of the Soviet draft is the mutual commitment to confine work in the area of space-based ABM systems to research in laboratories on earth. All ABM activity in space must be banned.

For the purpose of concretizing the sides' commitments, the Soviet proposals envisage reaching an agreement on a list of devices which cannot be put into space or located there.

The Soviet draft agreement also envisages that when it comes into effect active talks will be immediately continued on antisatellite systems and "space-earth" armaments.

The Soviet draft deals clearly with the question of the unbreakable, intrinsic link between strategic offensive arms reductions and limitations on ABM systems. It says, in part, that if either side decides to embark on the practical development [sozdaniye] of an ABM system going beyond the framework of the limitations set by the ABM Treaty, the other side will be released from compliance with the commitments envisaged by any treaty that might be elaborated between the USSR and the United States on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms.

Something that is of great importance is the commitment envisaged by the Soviet draft to start at least 2-3 years before the agreement expires talks on the entire ABM problem in light of the new situation created as a result of radical reductions in Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive arms.

The Soviet proposals also attach the greatest importance to problems of verification, right through to inspections.

Zholkver Notes U.S. Response

LD301905 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Aleksandr Zholkver commentary]

[Text] [Announcer] As we have already reported, the USSR delegation has made new proposals at the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva on nuclear and space armaments. Here is a latest news commentary by our political observer, Aleksandr Zholkver.

[Zholkver] What is involved is an important new initiative to avert an arms race in space. To that end, our country proposes to the United States an agreement on mutual nonwithdrawal for 10 years from the ABM Treaty. Let me remind you that this Soviet-U.S. treaty, signed in 1972, is admittedly open-ended, but it does provide for the possibility of withdrawal on condition of appropriate preliminary notification. However, since the treaty is the principal barrier against taking weapons into space, the USSR proposes that the immutability of this most important agreement be confirmed.

As you know, of course, the current U.S. Administration is actively working on the development of space weapons with President Reagan's notorious Strategic Defense Initiative [SDI]. It must be pointed out that many scientists in the United States itself regard SDI as not only a dangerous venture, but an unrealistic one. To put an end to all false interpretations of every kind, the Soviet draft agreement proposes that work in the area of space-based ABM defense be restricted to nothing more than laboratory research on earth. All activity in the area of ABM in space should be subject to a ban.

It is not difficult to realize that this would ensure that an arms race in space is averted. At the same time, even more favorable conditions would arise for the peaceful conquest of space. It should be noted that the just-ended joint flight of Soviet cosmonauts with a Syrian cosmonaut was a graphic example of the effectiveness of international cooperation in this undertaking, so important for all mankind.

The surprise, to put it mildly, evoked by the position adopted toward the new USSR initiative in Washington is all the greater because of this. The Voice of America hastened to declare that the Soviet draft AMB agreement had been greeted without enthusiasm by the Reagan administration, and the State Department's reaction was disappointing. Well, evidently those who are afraid that effective measures to avert an arms race in space could hinder the profitable business of the military-space concerns are disappointed. Let us hope, however, that these mercenary interests will not prevail over the interests of all mankind.

U.S. 'RELUCTANT' TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ACCORD

LD301940 Moscow TASS in English 1847 GMT 30 Jul 87

["Optimism Unsupported by Realistic Steps" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS -- TASS commentator on military matters Vladimir Chernyshev writes:

Marlin Fitzwater, White House official spokesman, said that the United States' position on the question of American nuclear warheads for Pershing-1A missiles belonging to the FRG, remains "firm". The United States, he said, will not hold talks on the "missiles of third countries" and this is its final say on this problem.

So in making a demand for keeping in Europe its nuclear warheads, which may at any moment be installed on the Bundeswehr's 72 theatre missiles, the United States, having agreed to the liquidation of Soviet and American theatre missiles on the global scale, has in view a complete zero only for the USSR. For itself it would like to have a "half-zero."

What is more, Washington intends to continue manufacturing Pershing-1B missiles, allegedly "for the West Germans" under the pretext of further modernisation of the FRG's missiles. It is known, however, that Pershing-1B theater missiles can be altered in a matter of hours into Pershing-2 medium-range missiles which can reach the territory of the USSR. Hence the United States, having destroyed, as it were, its Pershing-2 missiles, would be able, through the FRG, to have them in Europe again at any time desirable for it. Therein lies the obvious and perfidious opportunity for circumventing the future agreement.

As to the declarations that Soviet-American talks "do not concern third countries", American official representatives are juggling here. The things discussed in Geneva are not missiles and missile-launchers of the FRG but American nuclear warheads for these missiles. If nuclear warheads are to be classed with the weapons of "third countries" it would mean they also belong to Bonn. In this case there arises a really serious problem, one of violation by the United States and the Federal Republic of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Indeed, under Article One of this treaty the USA undertook not to transfer, directly or indirectly, nuclear weapons and control over them to anyone while the FRG undertook under Article 2 of the same treaty not to accept a direct or indirect transfer of nuclear weapons to it from anyone.

If both these countries live up to this treaty the USA remains the owner of warheads for West German missiles and therefore it would be simply absurd to regard them as armaments of "third countries." Hence, the legitimacy of the demand for destroying these warheads with the complete elimination of American and Soviet medium-range missiles and their nuclear warheads.

Many fine words are being said in Washington about the positions of the sides drawing closer together, about the possibility of completing shortly the drafting of a mutually acceptable agreement on medium-range and theater missiles. But no verbal declarations, however, can replace practical actions. Washington seems reluctant to remove the barriers it has artificially raised on the way to achieving agreement. If the USA removed negative elements from its position it would be possible to fulfill the realistic opportunity created by the Soviet Union for having by the autumn of this year a fully concerted joint draft treaty on the elimination of medium-range and theatre missiles on a global scale.

GERASIMOV HOLDS 30 JUL FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFING

Shevardnadze-Shultz Meeting

LD301356 Moscow TASS in English 1334 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS -- In accordance with the agreement reached, Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR minister of foreign affairs, will meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington in mid-Septermber, Gennadiy Gerasimsov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told a briefing here today.

Answering journalists he noted that by offering to hold the meeting this September the Soviet side meant to devote the remaining time to an intensive study, in Geneva first of all, of the key issues of Soviet-U.S. relations. The existing positive experience in preparing meeting at ministerial level is in favour of such an approach.

The Soviet foreign minister stressed in a recent letter to the U.S. secretary of state that the meeting of ministers must give an impetus to progress in all key directions of Soviet-U.S. relations and sum up the results of work done by the sides, as regards also prospects for the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting.

Possible Japan, FRG 'Espionage'

LD301604 Moscow TASS in English 1555 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS -- A spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry said at a briefing today that on July 21 this year the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union made a verbal representation to the Embassies of Japan and the FRG in Moscow. It was concerning the discovery in January 1986 of automatic intelligence apparatus installed in a cargo container which was transited from Japan to the FRG across the territory of the Soviet Union. The essence of the matter was set forth by the neswpaper IZVESTIYA on July 10, 1987 under the title "Espionage by Slow Train or What Was Concealed Behind Earthern Pots."

The USSR Foreign Ministry demanded that the appropriate authorities of Japan and FRG investigating this matter should present to the Soviet Union at an early date exhaustive explanations concerning what was in effect an espionage action against the Soviet Union and take steps to punish the culprits.

Israeli Missile Development

LD301532 Moscow TASS in English 1522 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS -- When asked about the Soviet Union's attitude to the fact, reported by the Swiss magazine REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE DEFENSE, that Israel has developed with the U.S. help a ballistic missile with a range of up to 1400-1500 kilometres, the USSR Foreign Ministry's spokesman said at a briefing today:

"If the report is true to fact, our attitude is negative. The development of such a missile by Israel may further destabilize the Middle East situation. Such a missile in Israel's hands may become an instrument of force not only against its geographic neighbours but also countries situated relatively far -- within the missile's range".

U.S. Warheads for FRG Missiles

LD301615 Moscow TASS in English 1610 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS -- Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, commented at a briefing here today on the draft agreement, submitted by the Soviet delegation in Geneva on July 29, on certain measures to strengthen the ABM Treaty and to prevent an arms race in outer space.

Our position is, he said, that the preservation of the ABM Treaty is the necessary prerequisite for the conclusion of an agreement on a 50-per cent reduction of strategic offensive arms and for continuing the process of strategic arms limitation. The aim of the agreement, as the Soviet Union sees it, is to reaffirm this termless treaty and strengthen its regime by the adoption by the sides of commitments not to withdraw from it within a certain period of time, 10 years as a minimum.

This would ensure an opportunity for a radical reduction of strategic offensive arms and would help keep strategic stability.

Another aim of this draft agreement is to draw, together with the American side, a distinct line between activities permitted and banned by the ABM Treaty in the sphere of anti-missile defense.

The Soviet Union, Gerasimov went on, also put forward at the Geneva talks a proposal for complete elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles and theatre missiles on the global scale. One gets the impression that the American side is making the question of American warheads for the West German Pershing-1A missiles the stumbling-block here. Washington is taking these warheads beyond the framework of the future agreement.

We have to repeat that such a position by the USA contradicts common sense and the existing military and political realities. If the USSR and the USA hold talks on the elimination of all their medium-range and theatre missiles, irrespective of where they are deployed globally, on the basis of the zero option, this zero must be equal for both sides.

The spokesman of the USSR Foreign Ministry called attention to the fact that there are many contradictions in the American arguments, apart from the main absurdity, when American warheads turn out to be not American, so to say, which, incidentally, violates the provisions of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Gerasimov specifically mentioned such an example of contradiction in the U.S. position. On the one hand, the American, West German and other press writes a great deal about the possibilty of disappearance of Pershing 1-A missiles as a result of natural aging. They write that these missiles will become outdated in five years' time, and five years are a possible time limit for the elimination of medium-range and theatre missiles under the proposed Soviet-American agreement. So they say there will be rally a global zero in five years' time. But at the same time a White House spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, said that the United States reserves the right to modernize West German missiles. If they are modernized this means that they will not grow old.

The aim of the future Soviet-American agreement is complete elimination of missiles of the above-mentioned two classes and nuclear warheads intended for them. Therefore American nuclear warheads for West German Pershing-1A missiles must also be destroyed during the eliminations of these armaments.

Arms Reductions Draft Mandate

LD301654 Moscow TASS in English 1641 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS -- On July 27, representatives of NATO countries at the Vienna Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), who took part in consultations within the framework of the so-called Group of 23, have tabled a draft mandate for future talks on reducing armed forces and armaments in Europe, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Gennadiy Gerasimov told a briefing today.

"This is good," he said, "because socialist countries have been pressing for the earliest start of concrete work on coordinating the mandate for future talks for more than a year now. More than a month ago they tabled at the consultations of the Group of 23 their draft of its main provisions, which laid good foundation for the mutually acceptable text of this mandate."

"At present, this document is being studied," Gennadiy Gerasimov went on. "The fact that the document takes into account elements of the talks concept [as received] formulated by Warsaw Treaty countries in the Budapest Appeal and in a draft mandate produces positive impression. This applies, in particular, to the elimination of a surprise attack potential and to the phased process of reducing the level of military confrontation, with the principle of not damaging the security of parties and the need to ensure strict and effective control being observed. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Serious drawbacks in NATO's approach to the problem of cutting armed forces and armamants in Europe are evident, the Soviet spokesman said. NATO countries are trying in every way to avoid admitting that exactly the reduction of armed forced and armaments must become the key means of strengthening security and stability on the European Continent. The principal shortcoming is NATO's unwillingness to include tactical nuclear means into the talks. These means, at least their major part, come under the category of weapons of dual purpose, which can use nuclear and conventional ammunition.

The questions of tactical strike aviation is also sidestepped. The reduction of this aviation must be also part of the process aimed at reducing land forces and armaments. Without it, one cannot seriously speak about the elimination of potentials of weapons which create a possibility of surprise attack. In effect, the negative position of NATO countries to the participation of neutral and non-aligned countries in future talks was also reiterated.

'Impermissible' Pakistani Remarks

LD301344 Moscow TASS in English 1340 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS — For a long time now rioting and clashes have been going on religious and ethnic grounds in Pakistan, Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., said at a briefing today.

A new wave of terrorist acts swept the country a few days ago with many casualties among the population in consequence, he went on. The Soviet Union always condemned and condemns terror as a means for achieving political aims. The policy of principle pursued by our state on that issue is well known.

Nonetheless, recent acts of terror in Pakistan are ill-intentionally used for working up an anti-Soviet campaign in which high-ranking officials of the Pakistani regime have joined in.

As was stated at the July 28 briefing, the Pakistani president tried to picture things in such a way as if the Soviet Union were allegedly involved in the terrorist acts. Speaking in Pakistan's Senate no so long ago, Yaqub Khan, the country's foreign minister, made verbal attacks against the Soviet Union and grossly distorted the Soviet stand on the settlement of the situation related to Afghanistan.

Unfriendly statements by Pakistani leaders with respect to the Soviet Union attest to their striving to distract attention from the difficulties experiences by Pakistan. These difficulties are, naturally enough, explained not by Moscow's scheming, but arise from Islamabad's short-sighted position which is at variance with the genuine national interests of the country. The above-mentioned statements by Pakistani leaders are regarded in the Soviet Union as impermissible and as being in glaring contradiction with their repeated assurances concerning the striving for normal relations with our country, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. emphasized.

Timing of Cambodia Conference

LD301926 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1405 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 30 Jul (TASS) -- It is regrettable that the so-called "Third International Conference on Cambodia," which ended in Bangkok on 26 July, was convened at a time when positive nuances in the search for mutually acceptable ways of solving the Cambodian problem by political means are increasingly noticeable, Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration, stated at a briefing here today.

The participants in this tendentious "conference" demanded that Western countries and China should intensify political pressure on and their economic boycott of Vietnam and increase military aid to Thailand and ASEAN. However, the "conference" recorded considerable discord: The sharply confrontational line of Pol Pot's men even prompted objections from their partners on coalition and a number of representatives have publicly appealed against the so-called "final resolution" adopted by the "conference."

On the whole one can say with full confidence that the organizers of the venture in Bangkok have not managed to achieve their main goal -- to set up a certain "unified international intellectual front" aimed at further whipping up the conflict around Cambodia, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman noted.

'Distinctive' Jaruzelski Plan

LD301819 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1338 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 30 Jul (TASS) -- The Soviet Union notes with satisfaction the comprehensive and large-scale nature of the PPR Government's memorandum on arms reduction and enhancing trust in central Europe, Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration, stated at a briefing today. This is unquestionably an important step on the way to achieving real progress in the business of disarmament and reinforcing trust in Europe. The "Jaruzelski Plan" creates new and extremely important opportunities for reinforcing the pan-European process.

This plan, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman noted, is distinctive in its breadth of approach and flexibility, because it contains an appeal to all the sides concerned for a free discussion of the Polish initiative or its basic components, without prior conditions or demands. The Soviet Union welcomes the initiative from our Polish friends and will take the most active and direct part in its implementation.

IZVESTIYA ON 28 JUL GERASIMOV BRIEFING ON M. RUST

PM301219 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Kuvshinnikov report: "Trial in a Month"]

[Excerpt] I do not recall a time when foreign journalists were so agitated after a routine briefing on current questions of world politics. They had been worked up by a statement by G. Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration, who held the briefing.

Yet he just reported that the investigation into the case of the young West German adventurer Mathias Rust was over and a dossier had been presented to the prosecutor's office, which would take the matter to court. Rust had been visited by the West German consul, and the pilot has a lawyer. By law the trial must begin within 1 month of the end of the investigation.

This generally simple information generated an all-out "barrage" in which the Soviet spokesman was bombarded with pointed and leading questions. Contrary to press center regulations, many of those asking the questions were so carried away that they forgot to identify themselves. Questions were asked by correspondents from TIME, NEWSWEEK, NBC, West Germany's ZDF....

In response, G. Gerasimov stressed that not only the Soviet side but the West German Government are of the opinion that laws had been broken. Nobody is asking whether Rust is innocent, it is a question of the level of his guilt and the extent of the punishment. [passage omitted]

TASS CITES USSR DELEGATE TO VIENNA EUROPEAN MEETING

LD301422 Moscow TASS in English 1410 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Vienna July 30 TASS -- The heads of the delegations of Bulgaria, Poland and the Soviet Union at the European meeting gave a press conference at the Vienna International Press Centre today.

In a statement to journalists Yuriy Kashlev, head of the USSR delegation, noted that the expectations shared by many delegations that the Vienna meeting would be concluded on July 31 have not been fulfilled.

We proceed from the fact that all the necessary prerequisites were at hand for a successful conclusion of the meeting, he stressed.

The international situation, which has taken shape to a large extent due to the active policy of the USSR aimed at overcoming obstacles in the way of nuclear disarmament, stopping nuclear tests and reducing conventional armaments, has been on the whole favourable.

The policies of the USSR on many issues discussed at the Vienna meeting are considerably influenced by the processes of perestroyka, democratization and glasnost which are taking place in the USSR.

A good base has been created at the Vienna meeting itself for reaching meaningful and mutually acceptable agreements: Some 150 proposals have been introduced on the entire scope of the Helsinki Final Act — the fact that attests to the interests of participating states in developing the CSCE process.

The Soviet delegation is firmly convinced that it was the position of the NATO countries that prevented the Vienna meeting from being concluded by the target date. For its part, the Soviet delegation persistently tried to reverse the delaying trend, doing everything in its power to intensify the work and proceed with the drafting of the concluding agreement.

One of the main causes of the delay is that for more than half a year we have had to counter the dangerous course pursued by some Western countries for cutting off disarmament from the Helsinki process.

As regards military matters, the implementation of the Helsinki principles, compliance with trade and economic agreements, human rights, human contacts, questions of information and many other issues, we have an extensive list of claims to be presented to the Western countries because the obligations assumed by them in Helsinki and Madrid are not fulfilled, massive and gross violations of human rights continue, obstacles are being set in the field of scientific ties and information exchanges, etc.

Kashlev further laid down the tasks which, in the opinion of the USSR delegation, are to be tackled after the summer recess by the participants in the meeting in the military-political field, in the field of international law, in the "second basket", in the questions of humanitarian cooperation, etc.

Kashlev expressed the view that an important role in creating conditions for speedy progress at the final stage of the Vienna meeting will belong to the neutral and non-aligned countries.

The USSR delegation is convinced that only a responsible political approach to work, a genuine desire to bring positions closer together, a search for rational elements in the approaches of all participants and the understanding of the limits of what is possible today can help the Vienna meeting to arrive at agreements that would serve the interests of expanding cooperation among all CSCE participants.

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON VIENNA EUROPEAN MEETING

LD301423 Moscow TASS in English 1348 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS -- The all-European process rests on the balance of interests of all 35 participants in the European Conference. This is layed down in the Helsinki Act, Yuriy Deryabin, head of the department for security and cooperation in Europe, the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said in an interview with a TASS diplomatic correspondent. It is not a matter of who makes concessions to whom. There should be no winning and losing sides in the issue of detente and cooperation. The need is for moving to meet each other halfway, the need is for reasonable compromises and common political denominators.

The Soviet Union also proceeds from this belief in humanitarian matters now being discussed at the Vienna meeting, Yuriy Deryabin stressed. We display a new political thinking as regards cooperation in the sphere of human rights and liberties, information, culture, education and contacts between people.

No doubt, the Soviet Union's new bold approaches to many international problems -- be it the problems of eliminating nuclear weapons or making easier contacts between people -- are directly linked with the processes of democratisation, openness and renovation of all aspects of life in Soviet society.

Our new approach to humanitarian aspects or, as they often say in the West, to the human dimension of the Helsinki process, was well demonstrated in Vienna. In November last year the Soviet Union suggested holding in Moscow a European conference on the development of humanitarian cooperation in all fields. The Western countries were either suppressing this proposal for a long time or expressed doubt whether adequate conditions would be created for the conference in Moscow.

Last week we clarified and supplemented in Vienna our proposal for holding a conference in Moscow and, I hope, we answered all questions and doubts. Clarifying our position we took into account the wishes of our Western partners and met them halfway. We have every reason to expect now a counter step on the part of the West, the Soviet expert said.

FOREIGN JOURNALISTS DISCUSS EUROPE, RESTRUCTURING

PM291010 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Jul 87 p 14

["Press Club" feature: "Europe: Restructuring of Thinking -- From the Urals to the Atlantic. Meeting With Foreign Journalists Accredited to Moscow"; "Roundtable recorded by Valentin Zapevalov" -- first three paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] The idea of organizing a permanent LITERATURNAYA GAZETA press club with the participation of foreign correspondents accredited to Moscow found approval among our readers and guests. Based on the results of the first meeting, APN [Novosti press agency] issued a special pamphlet in various languages.

The club may now be said to have already acquired distinctive features, a program, and permanent participants. It is planned to hold meetings regularly, and the circle of guests will be extended and will vary according to the topic under discussion.

Our first session was devoted to questions of restructuring and glasnost in the USSR. We continued this discussion during the new meeting, held immediately after the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum, which predetermined the range of questions discussed. Taking part in the discussion were: Raycho Radulov (TRUD, Bulgaria), Peter Dunai (NEPSZABADSAG, Hungary), Giulietto Chiesa (L'UNITA, Italy), Jerzy Kraszewski (TRYBUNA LUDU, Poland), Jeffrey Trimble (U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, United States), Peter Kucera (chief of the Moscow bureau of Czechoslovak television), and Yoshisuke Niijuma (ASAHI, Japan). LITERATURNAYA GAZETA was represented by Political Observer Fedor Burlatskiy; Economics Department Chief Aleksandr Levikov; Aleksandr Samoylenko, our own correspondent for Kazakhstan; and staffers from the International Department. The meeting was conducted by Oleg Prudkov, member of the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA editorial collegium for international questions.

O. Prudkov: We have suggested talking about the future of Europe at our second session. We hope the time is not far off when a Soviet-American agreement on eliminating medium-range missiles on the continent will be signed. What will happen next? Some people say Western Europe, deprived of the American nuclear umbrella, should come back to the idea of a West European defense union. And here, they say, the independent British and French missiles and the plan for American reorganization of the old Pershings could not be more opposite. The term "third Europe" has also become current in relation to a group of East European countries supposedly belonging to "neither West nor East." Today we also recall Charles de Gaulle's words about Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. We agree with those words. But is it correct today to believe that a West European union could form the basis of an independent Europe? Or that the West will be able to change the system in the continent's socialist countries? That seems simply absurd to us. In my view, only on condition of the creation of broad trust among the peoples will Europe become a good, common home for us.

Our party's Central Committee held a plenum recently. We would therefore like to widen the agenda for the press club: to hear what you think about its decisions, about the profound, comprehensive measures to restructure our society, and about the influence of the restructuring process in the USSR on the practical experience of the socialist countries.

Y. Niijuma: In my view, the CPSU Central Committee plenum offers an opportunity for broad cooperation with the USSR not only in the economic field but also in other spheres because your restructuring and reforms are closely associated with cooperation with other countries.

I was in Prague at the beginning of April, during Mr Gorbachev's visit. I was also there 9 years ago, when Mr Brezhnev visited Prague. I want to compare the two visits. During my recent visit to Prague I noticed that people in Czechoslovakia are filled with a far greater interest in the USSR and in the Soviet leader's plans. I met with ordinary people and heard them express their wishes for restructuring in their own country. An an acquaintance of mine who lives in Berlin recently came to Moscow and described how the Soviet newspapers PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA are sold in newspaper kiosks in Berlin. And if you don't buy them by 0700 it is too late — all the newspapers have been sold. Formerly, he said, Soviet newspapers used to hang around in the kiosks. These facts show how interested people in Eastern Europe are in what is happening in the USSR.

But I would like to make one observation regarding the recent summit meeting in Prague. The two countries' leaders assured each other that the USSR and Czechoslovakia, each following its own path, will implement a restructuring not only in the economic sphere but also in the political and other spheres, seeking to renew socialism. [paragraph continues]

It seems to me that this course of restructuring will inevitably lead in the future to a revision of the attitude toward the reforms of the "Prague spring." I see much in common between those ideas and the ideas of today.

O. Prudkov: You were in Prague 9 years ago. I was there 20 years ago, during that very "Prague spring." At that time I met Zdenek Horeni, now chief editor of RUDE PRAVO. To answer your question, I want to cite his opinion. He believes that many of the ideas expressed at the January plenum of Czechoslovak Communists in 1968 were correct. The plenum adopoted a detailed program for developing socialist principles. The trouble with the "Prague spring" was that these ideas were distorted by right-wing opportunist forces for antisocialist purposes.

However that may be, 1968 showed that problems requiring solutions had indeed accumulated in society.

A. Levikov: I think the economic ideas of the Czechoslovak Communists' 13th congress contained much that was sound, and were aimed at switching the economy from purely administrative methods of management to management through economic incentives, economic accountability [khozraschet], and so forth. But the economic practice of 1968 was contradictory, and the political struggle subsequently led far away from the goals outlined earlier. Instead of strengthening socialism, things were moving toward its destruction.

G. Chiesa: I would like to talk about the political program of the "Prague spring." The idea of changing the party's role in society arose at that time. This means that in socialist society various political forces should take part in the renewal process (social, trade union, creative, and cultural organizations), and they should have the right to autonomous existence and the expression of their own interests The Soviet Union is not at that stage yet. But I see such elements appearing in various items of the platform of the CPSU Central Committee June plenum; they may only be in an elementary, unclear form as yet, but they are there.

O. Prudkov: You are mistaken there. There are no changes in the political role of the party in our country. This was clearly stated at the June plenum. And the democratization of society and broad glasnost -- and basically that is what you are talking about -- by no means lessen the role of the party, which fulfills its mission as society's leading force.

P. Dunai: Let us go back to the "Prague spring." An economic reform began in our country in 1968, too. An interesting coincidence! In Czechoslovakia they were unable to complete it because there, as has already been said, errors were committed not only in the economic sphere but also in the political sphere. We started in 1964, when we had a plenum like your June plenum. In 1968, the ideas became laws. In 1965 a reform also began in your country, but its supporters did not have the forces to carry it through. With us, it was successful.

Now, as to the party's role. It has been said correctly here that democracy and glasnost are two powerful weapons in the CPSU's struggle for restructuring. The communist party of a socialist state must always look ahead and march in the vanguard. It is impermissible for the party to retard the economic process. I value and respect the CPSU for the fact that it leads and does not follow behind the process of renewal.

J. Kraszewski: I regard what is happening in the Soviet Union not as a sign of the weakening of the party's leading role, but, on the contrary, of its strengthening. Historical conditions developed so one party exists in the Soviet Union. The experience in Poland and Czechoslovakia is different.

An important aspect, it seems to me, is the question of maintaining the party's leading role: In what directions will it operate, what will it urge, and how far will it consider the country's objective conditions?

The second question is that of the form of the leading role. Of course, if an obkom or raykom first secretary gives instructions to ispolkoms and other organizations or resolves all the questions directly on their behalf, that has nothing in common with the party's leading role in the Leninist understanding of the word.

G. Chiesa: I have already touched on the subject of the party's leadership role several times in various discussions. And every time the answer I hear is that it is going to increase now. Since this is a key question, it is necessary not to hurry, repeating stereotypes. It is necessary to compare various ideas and viewpoints on the historically established leading role of the party so as to avoid, for instance, the experience of authoritarian leadership of the party. We have all read A. Rybakov's novel "Children of the Arbat," and we know how the party's leading role was transformed after Lenin and what grave consequences this had.

A few words about the Law on Nationwide Discussion adopted in the USSR recently: In my view this is a clear deviation from the Constitution, where Articles 5 and 48 provide for the holding of referendums. But in the new law, the word "referendum" has disappeared. The people's opportunities to express their opinion are being restricted.

F. Burlatskiy: We are not repeating stereotypes at all. The party's political leadership is growing today, and administrative, decree methods are being annulled. Leadership by administrative decree is gradually being replaced by political leadership by the party and economic leadership by the state and its institutions. This means the party formulates the policy, acts as headquarters for the elaboration of strategy, and seeks its implementation through all its institutions and the people who make up the party. This is a fundamentally new way of looking at matters. It was established at the April plenum and is now being put into practice.

In connection with history, Comrade Chiesa, you speak of deviations from original principles. It is easy to judge now. But the principles were put forward and tested in the process of the revolutionary reorganization of the whole of society. Sometimes the party took on the role not only of political leader but also of direct managing organization. In other cases, particularly important institutions of ours got out of the party's control and became the instrument of an individual, not of the whole party. In the last 20 years the leadership lagged behind the demands of life. But now our Politburo and the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee are marching at the head of the process. All the initiatives, our biggest economic reforms, and the democratization process reflect the sentiments of the broadest masses, but come from above. In this sense the party's influence is strengthening.

Going back to your specific observation, Comrade Chiesa, let me say that the Law on Nationwide Discussion is not a substitute for the referendum, but an addition to it. The referendum remains the constitutional right of the working people. I am certain that we will have referendums. But the institution of nationwide discussion is being established as the permanent, effectively operating form of participation by society in decisionmaking, in monitoring their fulfillment, and in the discussion of alternative ideas.

P. Kucera: Everything you say indicates your party has learned a very good lesson from the past, including the mistakes we made in 1968. [paragraph continues]

Why did it all end in crisis and failure for us? At that time very many problems had accumulated in the country, and the party proved incpable of resolving them. Administrative, rather than political, leadership prevailed in our country.

P. Dunai: Sometimes the political process helps movement in the economy, and sometimes, conversely, the economic process helps the political -- for instance, glasnost and the expansion of democracy. In Hungary we started with economic reforms, and political reforms proceeded at the same time. A democratization process took place. We too had recessions in the economy -- in 1973-1974. And we too had supporters and opponents of restructuring and reforms. When the latter took the upper hand, this retarded the political process, too.

Your new Law on the State Enterprise will also help the democratization process. The collectives will be granted many rights and will themselves determine their economic line.

P. Kucera: It is always important to decide where to start. Economic reforms cannot be implemented withoiut democratization. And conversely, no democratization is possible if bureaucracy reigns in economic relations. This is a very complex question, and much depends on the specific conditions in the specific country. And also on how far the political leaders have mastered the art of foresight. As for restructuring in Czechoslovakia, here the main thing is to define the steps that must be taken. It is easy to march forward on paper but extremely difficult to achieve it in practice.

O. Prudkov: As we agreed, we invited our own correspondent for Kazakhstan, Aleksandr Samoylenko, to take part in the club's work. The restructuring is under way not only in Moscow. And the democratization process in not the prerogative of the capital...

A. Samoylenko: I think the restructuring process in Kazakhstan has only just begun. All of us there are now breathing really fresh, free air. Life has become more interesting, but also more complicated. There is a colossal flow of honest, diverse information. The new party leadership almost immediately offered us journalists a new form of contact, marked by simplicity, accessibility, and the opportunity for debate. Life in the republic is changing, changing strikingly. Sometimes I walk around Alma-Ata and I discover with surprise that the problems that yesterday seemed enormous, global, insuperable, insoluble, are today being resolved calmly and painlessly. People have gotten down to work.

R. Radulov: Evidently an administrative, imperious style of leadership prevailed in your republic, did it not?

A. Samoylenko: Undoubtedly. But much is changing now. Cooperative forms of economic management are gathering speed in the republic. Cooperative cafes and family units have sprung up. One of the main features I notice in the republic today is greater enthusiasm. People in Kazahkstan know all the party organization's concerns, all the concerns of the republican Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers.

J. Trimble: I would like to come back to Eastern Europe. It seems that the attitude to what is happening in the Soviet Union today has not yet become fully established there. Although the official reaction to the changes in the USSR is positive, one can assume from certain indications that some countries regard the events in the USSR with fear and even with objections. Yet the peoples of Eastern Europe sincerely welcome the changes in your country.

I personally was also impressed by how warmly Mr Gorbachev was greeted in Czechoslovakia.

J. Kraszewski: The most valuable aspect of your party's experience now is that it is has a clear idea of how to resolve the problems facing society. Although this or that particular task -- political, economic, technical -- may come to the fore for a certain sapce of time.

The main question for us, in my view, is the economy. Of course, if you take the GDR, the CSSR, and Poland, the economic tasks are different for each country. The technical level of industry in the GDR is much higher than in Poland. Czechoslovakia has also developed stably in many spheres since 1968.

People in our country believe the changes now being experienced in Poland are in the same vein as what is happening in the Soviet Union. I would add to that my own opinion, as follows: What distinguishes the situation in Poland from the position in the Soviet Union? In the USSR the initiative for restructuring and reforms came from the party and from its leadership, which has a clear idea of what it wants.

A. Levikov: But a keen struggle was under way even before that. Social forces, certain scientists and journalists, and some particularly devoted economic leaders were in effect calling for a restructuring, without using that term. Many of them suffered a good deal because of bureaucracy at that time. But all their efforts were founded on sand until the April 1985 plenum and the 27th party congress came along and the country's new leadership seriously set a course of reform.

J. Kraszewski: In our country, the events of 1980 were so spontaneous that it is hard to determine precisely what was in the forefront. The initial cause of the actions was, of course, the unfavorable economic situation in the country.

P. Kucera: But we must also avoid going to extremes and imitating everything that is done in the Soviet Union. Everyone must think about everything and elaborate their own restructuring program, a sensible program, so as not to have to do everything all over again in 2 or 3 years. We no longer have the right to follow a path of trial and error. Stil less can we stand idle, under cover of talk about the specific features of our own countries: Otherwise it will be even more difficult to make up for lost time later.

F. Burlatskiy: In this regard an important problem concerning us journalists arises: finding a new approach to the question of the exchange of experience. Here the starting point is an idea put forward by Lenin himself: Socialism in its entirety can only emerge from a series of attempts, each of which will be one-sided. It is necessary to build a base for the new level of thinking, for the frank exchange of opinions. And that includes opinions on the historical lesson of the past, both in our country and in the other socialist countries.

R. Radulov: The whole world was waiting for the new CPSU Central Committee plenum because it is an important practical step in implementing the plans outlined at the 27th congress and then at the January plenum. Glasnost, democratization in the intellectual sphere -- all this is fine, but the economy is the basis of everything. Unless the economy is put onto a normal footing, everything else will fade away. Soviet television recently showed a "roundtable" of moviemakers. Elem Klimov spoke about a talented director who had longed for the restructuring. When it began, the director suggested not hurrying but continuing to work in the old way for the time being. [paragraph continues]

That is to say, if even people who prepared the restructuring cannot restructure themselves immediately, what can you expect for the economy, which was managed for long years by administrative, bureaucratic methods?

M.S. Gorbachev's speech at the June plenum contains many ideas that will sooner or later be implemented in all the socialist countries.

One of the topics of our discussion is Europe and its future. There are now very many missiles, much distrust, and much hatred in Europe. The proposals put forward by the Soviet Union will help to "unfreeze" the situation.

G. Chiesa: In evaluating the domestic situation in the Soviet Union and its reforms, I would use the old expression: Don't count your chickens before they're hatched. I can see enormous obstacles in the political and psychological plane. In the psychological plane it is quite clear -- it is hard to make a revolution. Political obstacles are more complex. When I hear and read Comrade Gorbachev's speeches, broad prospects open up before me. But when I study the speeches of other Soviet leaders, these prospects are narrowed considerably. However, that is a natural process of struggle, and without struggle there will be no renewal.

O. Prudkov: I think you are a captive of the stereotypes that are widespread in the West. In fact, there is unity of views among our leadership on the key questions of restructuring. At the same time in various strata of society there is a braking mechanism that must be overcome, and M.S. Gorbachev speaks of this quite openly, although the vast majority of Soviet people support the restructuring and consider it their vital cause. And as for the obstacles, it is a poor general who starts a war without thinking of victory. We want to win this war.

Thank you all for your contributions. I think our meeting has been useful.

COMPARISON OF PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON ASIA, PACIFIC

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 29 July carries in its Second Edition on page 4 an editorial article assessing the effectiveness of the Soviet proposals on the security of the Asian and Pacific region formulated 1 year ago at Vladivostok. The Second Edition PRAVDA article has been compared with the 29 July Moscow PRAVDA First Edition version published in the 29 July Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page CC 8, revealing the following variation:

Page CC 12, paragraph two, antepenultimate line reads in the Second Edition PRAVDA: ...region.

The Asian-Pacific aspect of the Soviet Union's foreign policy forms an integral part of the overall platform of CPSU international activity elaborated at the 27th party congress. It is our long-term course. The development and concretization of the program of peace and security for the countries of Asia and the Pacific put forward 1 year ago in Vladivostok again graphically demonstrates the creative, constructive nature of Soviet foreign policy in full accord with the new political and philosophical approach to key problems of the present day. The approval and support with which the latest Soviet initiatives have been received confirm that the new political thinking is gaining ground and gradually becoming part of the practice of international relations. (omitting sentence and supplying additional paragraph)

FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS U.S. 'INTERFERENCE'

PM311005 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jul 87 First Edition p 2

[TASS report]

[Text] Authorities, public organizations, and law enforcement organizations in Moscow receive numerous letters from working people asking whether it is permissible to allow Crimean Tatar extremists, who came to the capital, to violate public order here.

The same indignation is expressed by working people in letters addressed to the mass media.

Having considered these letters, the Moscow City Soviet of People's Deputies ispolkom decided to grant additional powers to law enforcement organizations in establishing public order and enforcing discipline.

The Crimean Tatars who came to Moscow were again warned about the impermissability of activities violating public order and, consequently, causing indignation among the residents of and guests in the capital. The extremists were informed that if they fail to heed these warnings, legal measures will be used against them. It was also stressed that no one would be allowed to abuse Soviet democracy and norms which ensure citizens' rights.

Some of the Crimean Tatars received these warnings with understanding and either left or are going to leave the capital.

At the same time, there is information that persons posing as self-styled leaders of Crimean Tatars have sent, for incitement purposes, an "appeal" to the governments of foreign countries trying to draw attention to questions which are of purely internal nature for the Soviet Union. At the same time these persons are trying to enlist the support of various shady elements and to play on the feelings of misled or not fully informed people.

Trying to attract the attention of the West, the extremists have established contacts with the embassies of capitalist countries. For their part, certain foreign diplomats are trying to incite Crimean Tatars. In particular, U.S. Embassy First Secretary Saun Byrnes played this unseemly role. No later than yesterday he again met with instigators from among the Crimean Tatars, B. Umerov, F. Ablyamitov, S. Seutova and others, in a secluded place near the metro station Proletarskaya. The aims of this meeting are obvious.

The Soviet press have already reported that an authoritative commission headed by Andrey Gromyko, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, was set up to consider a whole set of issues, raised in statements by citizens from among Crimean Tatars. The commission and its representatives have already started work both in the center and in the provinces. The commission's activity is supported by the majority of Crimean Tatars and working people of other nationalities in the Soviet Union. The commission's work must proceed in a tranquil atmosphere, because any issue pertaining to national interests demands special responsibility and balance.

The minister counselor of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow was invited today to the USSR Foreign Ministry to receive an oral protest on a question connected with a concrete aspect of the embassy's activities which are not within the bounds of usual diplomatic functions.

It was stated to the U.S. Embassy that the Soviet side has information indicating that certain embassy staff members have established contact with the most extreme representatives of the Crimean Tatars for purposes requiring the Soviet side to raise this question before the U.S. side. Individual U.S. diplomats have tried to inspire nationalistic manifestations and incite certain Crimean Tatars in Moscow to antisocial actions.

It was pointed out that Suan Byrnes, first secretary at the embassy, has been the most active in this regard and has had in recent days several secret meetings with extremists.

The Soviet side stated that it expects the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to take all the necessary measures in order to rule out completely any actions interfering in the internal affairs of the USSR, in this case inciting individual Soviet citizens to commit illegal actions, which, apart from other things, complicates the solution of the question now being handled by a specially established commission headed by the president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

POGODIN: U.S. ALLIES FORGET UN GULF RESOLUTION

LD301442 Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Aleksandr Pogodin commentary]

[Text] The situation in the Persian Gulf is the subject of reports coming in almost every hour. In this flood of information, our commentator Aleksandr Pogodin says, it is difficult to find a single fact to inspire any hope for lowering the level of tension in the region. On the contrary, every report causes deep concern. Here is some of the latest information:

The American secretary of defense has ordered the transfer to the Gulf of a group of helicopters. The United States has requested its NATO allies to send their minesweepers to the Gulf. A group of French military ships led by the aircraft carrier Clemenceau is heading for the region. It is expected that at the end of this week the United States Navy is to start a new stage of escorting Kuwaiti oil tankers. It looks as though the United States, France, and Great Britain have already forgotten the verdict of the United Nations Security Council's resolution calling on all countries to the maximum restraint on actions which can lead to the escalation of tension.

Provocative actions undertaken by the United States and its allies have caused a new series of military statements by Iran. Thus, Tehran has announced the intention to deliver missile attacks on economic targets on the territory of those countries which it believes render assistance to Iraq. There have been threats of attacking American escort ships. According to reports from Iran, groups of volunteer fanatics are being set up threatening to attack American warships if Tehran fails to make a move. So, when they say that situation in the Gulf is becoming more explosive, it is no exaggeration but just a statement of fact. According to the developments in the Persian Gulf, the policy of force aimed at interference in sovereign affairs of other countries for imposing political and economic dictatorship is not only fruitless but extremely dangerous for peace in the whole world.

TASS REPORTS ADELMAN RESIGNATION, BACKGROUND

LD310444 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1745 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Washington, 30 Jul (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports:

Kenneth Adelman, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, on Wednesday announced his decision to resign. In a letter to President Reagan, he explained that the reason for his decision was that he "had completed his task of helping to draw up a new course in arms control between the United States and the USSR, a course that would reduce armaments and help reduce the threat of war." A White House spokesman reported that Reagan accepted Adelman's resignation and stated that the latter had "done outstanding work in pursuing the administration's policy."

In connection with the frankly self-publicizing character of Adelman's claim, it is being recalled here with unconcealed irony that during his 4 years as director of the agency he worked in "tandem" with Richard Perle, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, who is well-known for his extreme militarist views and who also recently resigned. AP reported that he earned a firm reputation as a supporter of a hard-line policy in relations with the Soviet Union, and indeed whenever he was able he would put spokes in the wheels of arms control negotiations. He was and remains one of the fervent propagandists of the Star Wars program and a U.S. nuclear arms buildup. Not one debate in Congress over issues connected with the administration's military programs would pass without demands from Adelman that billions of dollars be allocated to the programs sought by the Pentagon. He was actively involved in campaigns to defame participants in the U.S. antiwar movement as well as those congressmen striving to achieve a reduction in the heavy expenditures on the arms race and a constructive approach by the administration toward Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva.

Adelman now intends to settle down to this type of activity in the pages of the press, on television, and from the platforms of public organizations and educational establishments, an activity which is, incidentally, being actively undertaken by a man of like mind, R. Perle. In his letter of resignation, Adelman said he will write a biweekly column for nationwide distribution as well as monthly articles for magazines; he will also lecture and work "with one of the think tanks in Washington." It is thought here that this is most likely to be the Washington Center for Strategic and International studies of the extreme right-wing "Heritage Foundation." Both of these centers are engaged in anti-Soviet propaganda as well as drawing up recommendations for the administration, including those in the field of military and foreign policy.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA NOTES CHINESE PLA ANNIVERSARY

PM301555 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Jul 87 First Edition p 3

[Article by Colonel B. Viktorov: "The Chinese People's Liberation Army Is 60 Years Old"]

[Text] The Chinese revolutionary armed forces came into being in 1927. The emergence and development of the Chinese People's Liberation Army [PLA] was connected with the Chinese people's long revolutionary struggle under the Communist Party's leadership against internal reaction and against imperialist interference and aggression.

The bloody terror unleashed by the Chiang Kai-shek regime against communists after the revolutionary coup gave rise in the Nanchang uprising. During the preparations for it the Communist Party set up revolutionary military detachments and formations. They came to be called the Chinese Red Army, and 1 August 1927 — the day the Nanchang uprising began -- went down in the country's history as Chinese People's Liberation Army Day. The talented military commanders Zhu De, Peng Dehuai, He Long, Ye Ting, Liu Bocheng, Ye Jianying, and others made a big contribution to organizing, building, and developing the PLA.

During the first decade of its existence the Chinese Red Army fought grim battles against Kuomintang forces and units of local militarist cliques in defense of the areas that had been liberated in various parts of the country by the people rebelling under CPC leadership. At the beginning of the thirties the Red Army routed four major campaigns mounted against it. But when Chiang Kai-shek's forces began a fifth campaign the forces were too uneven. The Red Army was forced to retreat and redeploy to the northwestern part of the country. The revolutionary units had to fight their way over a distance of 12,500 km. The Long March was a glorious chapter in PLA history. Its result was that the nucleus of the CPS was preserved and a new support base was established for the revolution.

The provocation by the Japanese militarists at Lugouqiao Bridge in a Beijing suburb on 7 July 1937 was an excuse to widen aggression against China. The Chinese people's long resistance war had begun. A unified anti-Japanese national front was formed to counter the interventionists. The main Red Army formations were reorganized into the 8th Army and the partisan units in the central regions into the 4th Army. Led by the CPC, they bore the brunt of the liberation struggle and mounted heroic resistance to the Japanese. Suffice it to recall the celebrated 8th Army operation which goes by the name "Battle of 100 Regiments," during which the enemy lost several thousand officers and men.

In August 1945 the Soviet Union, loyal to its allied commitments, entered the war against militarist Japan and dealt its military grouping in northeast China a crushing blow. The MPR armed forces fought successfully alongside the Soviet troops. Units of the Chinese Red Army and detachments of Korean partisans based on the territory of northeast China made a substantial contribution to the rout of the Japanese Kwantung Army. Liberated by Soviet forces and given comprehensive assistance from the USSR, Manchuria became a reliable strategic military bridgehead for the Chinese revolutionary forces and the new political center of the revolution.

The Japanese interventionists were routed. But the troops of Chiang Kai-shek, who was encouraged by the United States, attacked the liberated regions. In the battles of the civil liberation war of 1945-1949 the PLA troops launched a strategic offensive against the Kuomintang troops. The PLA conducted a number of major offensive operations -- the Liaoshen, Beijing-Tianjin, and Huaihai operations, the crossing of the Yangzi River, and others. As a result the main forces of the 8-million-strong Kuomintang army, equipped with American weapons, were routed, and a large part of the country was entirely liberated from the power of Chiang Kai-shek's reactionary clique.

The CPC leaders and prominent military leaders stressed repeatedly that the Soviet Union's assistance played a considerable role in this. It was the USSR which provided the PLA with a significant quantity of combat hardware, weapons, and ammunition and helped to form and train regular units and restore transport communications and supply the army.

A new stage in the PLA's history began after the proclamation of the People's Republic of China in 1949. A radical restructuring of the organizational structure of the Armed Forces was carried out. As a result the ground forces were reorganized, air and naval forces, air defense forces, artillery, armored, engineering, communications, and chemical defense forces were created, and a network of military training establishments was developed, where the training and education process took account of the experience of the Soviet Armed Forces. As a result of this intensive work the organizational and combat might of the PLA increased and the PRC's defense capability was strengthened.

Soviet-Chinese cooperation in the defense sphere, which underwent broad development during those years, was of great significance in turning the PLA into a modern army. As early as 1950, with the help of Soviet specialists, a jet air force was created in China and received the most modern Soviet planes of the time. The tank troops grew, and the navy received Soviet ships and submarines. In cooperation with the Soviet Union, a number of defense industry sectors were created in the PRC and a wide network of enterprises for the production of modern armaments and military hardware was built.

In the first decade of the PRC's existence there was a gradual process of development and strengthening of cooperation between the PLA and the Soviet Army and the fraternal armies of the socialist countries. The subsequent period of complication of Soviet-Chinese relations also affected our countries' cooperation in the defense sphere.

In the course of the implementation of the course of modernizing the country in the late seventies, the PLA embarked on reorganization and restructuring. As the Chinese press notes, "The central task for the modernization of the Army must be to steadily turn the PLA into a mighty modern, regular army and further increase its combat capability in modern conditions." At the center of the military reforms launched in 1984 are the simplification of the PLA's organizational structure, its technical rearming, the restoration and expansion of the network of military training establishments, and the strengthening of command cadres. According to Yang Shangkun, deputy chairman of the CPC Central Committee Military Council, the PLA reforms envisage amalgamating military districts (the number will be reduced from 11 to 7), changing the composition of troop units in the light of foreign experience, simplifying the structure of the control apparatus, and reducing the age of the command personnel. [paragraph continues]

The reduction of 1 million PLA soldiers announced back in 1985 should, in the opinion of the Chinese leadership, not weaken but, on the contrary, strengthen the Army's combat capability and make it possible to eliminate the cumbersome and inflated element in the control apparatus and assist the buildup of the combat and strike components of the armed forces as a whole. The program for reducing the numerical strength also includes the demobilization of servicemen who, in the opinion of the military command, are "inactive" and the elimination of the "lifetime employment system" for leading military posts.

Expressing satisfaction with the progress of the PLA reform over the last 2 yeas, PRC Defense Minister Zhang Aiping noted that "China has now created its own system of military research and military production and has solved the problem of supplying the ground forces, navy, and air force with both modern conventional arms and strategic nuclear missiles." However, he continued, the main problem facing the PLA continues to be the "contradiction between the objective demands of modern warfare and the low standard of the Chinese Army." Yu Qiuli, chief of the PLA Main Political Directorate, continued this idea in his address to students at the recently created National Defense Academy. He pointed to the need for Army leading cadres to follow the "socialist path and struggle against the ideological trend of 'bourgeois liberalization' widespread in China."

The PLA is now devoting more and more attention to studying the classic works of Marxism-Leninism, to enhancing the ideological and theoretical training of servicemen, and to strengthening discipline.

BORDER TRANSSHIPMENT POINT WITH PRC OPENS

PM291055 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS Report: "Transshipment Point"]

[Text] Khabarovsk — One more transshipment point for the transport of foreign trade freight between the USSR and the PRC has begun to operate at Nizhneleninskoye port on the Amur, at the Soviet-Chinese border.

Before navigation ends, the river transport workers of the Amur steamship company plan to deliver tens of thousands of cubic meters of timber to Nizhneleniskoye.

DPRK MOVES TO EASE PENINSULA TENSION HAILED

PM301507 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 26 Jul 87 p 3

[A. Zaytsev commentary: "In the Spirit of Good Will"]

[Text] If a world bristling with weapons and divided into opposed armed groups is like a powder keg, then the Korean peninsula is one of its fuses. For 34 years -- since the end of the Korean War -- there has been a situation of "neither war nor peace" there, where large contingents of the armed forces of North and South stand face to face. This in itself explosive situation is intensified by the military presence in South Korea of the United States, which has sited there 48,000 servicemen, military bases, and 1,000 nuclear weapons -- a potential recently expanded by the Pentagon on the pretext of ensuring the security of the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

The DPRK Government, which has consistently spoken from a position of peace and which is governed by the desire to ease the situation in the peninsula, has over the years proposed constructive initiatives to Seoul and Washington and has repeatedly taken the first steps toward alleviating tension. Last year, for example, it channeled over 150,000 servicemen into the construction of peaceful civilian installations, and this year it has proposed to hold military-political summit talks with the South with U.S. participation. However, Pyongyang's peace initiatives have remained unanswered.

Continuing its attempts to alleviate tension and hasten the peaceful reunification of Korea, the DPRK has recently proposed a whole package of new constructive proposals.

First, it proposes to mutually reduce the armed forces to 100,000 men in three stages from 1988 through 1991. There would be a simultaneous phased evacuation of the U.S. forces stationed in South Korea until their complete withdrawal and the abolition of military bases and nuclear weapons.

It is envisaged that the reduction and the evacuation will be carried out under broad international control. This task could be entrusted to the commission of neutral countries' representatives, which is now monitoring the North-South armistice agreement and the situation along the military demarcation line dividing them.

These new initiatives thus are a coherent and comprehensively substantiated program of measures for easing tension on the peninsula. To induce Seoul and Washington to implement it, the DPRK Government undertook this year to unilaterally reduce its army by 100,000 men.

The DPRK's constructive proposals lie in the mainstream of all the socialist countries' efforts to consolidate peace and the peoples's security and to remove the threat of a nuclear conflict. They directly echo the Vladivostok program for a comprehensive approach to ensuring security in Asia.

DOBRYNIN RECEIVES JAPANESE POLITICANS 29 JUL

LD300925 Moscow TASS in English 0908 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 30 TASS -- Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin had a meeting at the CPSU Central Committee on Wednesday [29 July] with a delegation of the Democratic Socialism Party of Japan, led by chairman of the party's Central Executive Committee Saburo Tsukamoto.

The Japanese guests' attention was drawn to the Soviet foreign policy initiatives aimed at removing the threat of a nuclear war, safeguarding peace and security of the peoples, including the Asian-Pacific region.

The delegation of the Democratic Socialism Party of Japan welcomed the Soviet Union's policy in question of nuclear disarmament and declared for the early conclusion between the Soviet Union and the United States of an agreement on elimination of medium-range missiles both in Europe and the Asian continent.

An exchange of opinions was held on topical questions of the international situation, the need of improving Soviet-Japanese relations.

Demichev Meets Delegation

LD271815 Moscow TASS in English 1739 GMT 27 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 27 TASS -- Pyotr Demichev, an alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., met in the Kremlin today with a delegation of the Democratic Socialist Party of Japan led by Saburo Tsukamoto, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the party, deputy to the House of Representatives of the Diet.

The delegation was informed about deep-running changes in the Soviet Union along lines of further democratization of life and improvement of living standades of Soviet people.

The sides exchanged views on certain aspects of the international situation. The hope was expressed that the ideas formulated by Mikhail Gorbachev in Vladivostok and developed in his interview to the Indonesian newspaper MERDEKA would hold a prominent place in overall efforts to establish a zone of peace and security in Asia, the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Much attention during the meeting was devoted to ways for promoting goodneighbourly relations between the U.S.S.R. and Japan, scaling up political dialogue, developing cooperation in the economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields.

VORONTSOV MEETS WITH IRAQ'S AZIZ IN BAGHDAD

LD310828 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0650 GMT 31 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 31 July (TASS) -- Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, who is visiting the Iraqi capital, has met with Tariq Aziz, member of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, deputy prime minister, and minister of foreign affairs.

During the talk, which was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, attention was given mainly to an examination of the current situation in the Iran-Iraq conflict. The sides noted that the unanimously adopted UN Security Council resolution of 20 July this year has provided a starting point for a speedy end to the war and a political settlement of all disputes between Iran and Iraq on just foundations and taking account of their legitimate interests. Support was expressed for the important mission of mediation by the UN secretary general, and emphasis was placed on the need to create favorable conditions for successfully implementing it. This would be facilitated if all states display great restraint and refrain from any actions that could lead to an intensification and confrontation and an expansion of the war. In the context of the efforts to solve the Iran-Iraq conflict and for a general improvement of the situation in the region, measures were broached that could lower tension in the Persian Gulf. The absence over the recent past of military action in this region is creating a good basis for this.

'REAL AND MYTHICAL' U.S. MOTIVES IN GULF CITED

PM301617 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Aleksandr Bovin "Political Observer's Opinion": "The Gulf"]

[Text] The Iran-Iraq war, which has been going on for almost 7 years now, has seriously complicated the situation in the Persian Gulf, which is described as the Western world's main "oil artery." Both states have launched and are continuing a "tanker war" — in other words, they are trying to hamper the enemy's shipping. Moreover, hostilities have also spread to ships belonging to noncombatant countries.

Kuwait is suffering in particular.

Tehran believes that a large proportion of the aid given to Iraq passes through Kuwait. Hence tankers and other merchant ships sailing to or from Kuwaiti ports are subject to keen attention by the Iranian Air Force and Navy. It has been reported that Kuwait has lost 90 ships in the last 2 years alone.

Under these circumstances Kuwait took a rather unusual step. It made a request for help to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Two options were specifically at issue. Kuwait would either charter or hire tankers belonging to these countries to carry its oil, or Kuwait would reregister its own tankers in these countries; in other words, Kuwaiti tankers would sail with foreign crews and under foreign flags. This, in the Kuwaiti authorities' opinion, would make Iran refrain from hostile actions.

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd Al'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah explained his country's position in the following eight points.

1. Kuwait's measures are purely commercial actions; their purpose is to ensure deliveries of Kuwaiti oil to the market.

2. These measures contain nothing new in principle. Kuwait has chartered tankers in the past. Why not charter them from the superpowers?

3. Registration is not a formal measure. Reregistered ships change masters and owners and pay taxes to the relevant government.

4. Kuwait does not call on anyone to protect these tankers; it is a sovereign decision by each country whether or not to protect its ships in international waters.

5. Kuwait is responsible for the defense of its own territory; responsibility for the safety of the Gulf's international waters is borne by the international community as a whole, by littoral countries in the region, and by states benefiting from free navigation in the Gulf.

6. In addressing the great powers, Kuwait had no intention of forcing them to interfere in the region's internal affairs.

7. Soviet, U.S., British, and French warships have been in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea for several years now; the escorting of merchant ships belonging to their countries is a normal and accepted procedure.

8. Kuwait's step is not a provocation against anyone and is not aimed against anyone.

Generally, Kuwait let it be understood that it would under no circumstances wish to further exacerbate the situation in and around the Gulf. Appeals to cease the conflict are addressed time and again to Tehran. Declarations are made that Kuwait is not prepared to make its naval or air force bases available to U.S. military aircraft.

Now for the U.S. position. For a number of economic and political reasons the United States has no interest in the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war. It does not stand to gain from either an Iranian or an Iraqi victory. Washington initiated the UN Security Council resolution adopted unanimously on 20 July, demanding that "as a first step toward settling the conflict by means of talks Iran and Iraq should cease fire without delay, halt all military actions on the ground, at sea, and in the air, and immediately withdraw all their troops to the internationally recognized borders."

We have before us one of those rare occasions when all five permanent members of the Security Council vote together on a most urgent international question. And this would seem to pave the way to constructive joint or parallel actions, including Soviet-U.S. actions, which could bring the end of the Iran-Iraq war closer. Unfortunately, the real policy of the United States is far from identical to what it is saying in the United Nations and what it is voting for. Actual U.S. policy, as a rule, is based on an elaborate interweaving of rational and irrational, real and mythical motives, deception and self-deception. And behind this interweaving and the several layers of propaganda backup can be seen a rigid and egocentric course to establish U.S. hegemony and defend its "right" to disregard others' rights and to feel itself master of the situation.

U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger has reduced America's aims in the Persian Gulf region to three points:

to guarantee unrestricted access to Persian Gulf oil;

to prevent the Soviet Union from exerting an influence in the region which would threaten that free access;

and to promote regional stability and limit the ability of hostile regimes to destabilize the countries of this region.

And the secretary concluded: "U.S. interests and aims in the Persian Gulf are under threat today. The continuing expansion of the Iran-Iraq war provides the Soviets with an opportunity to use regional tension for their own purposes so as to build up their own military presence and political status there."

When Washington links the "vital interests" of the United States -- and the West as a whole -- with oil, I would not argue. The interest of the main imperialist centers in obtaining oil from the shores of the Persian Gulf is perfectly understandable. Clearly, it is also hard to dispute the right of a state's warships to accompany their merchant ships. The objections begin when it is a case of the unconcealed and impudent use of military strength to secure one's "vital interests" while arrogantly disregarding the interests of other states, and when the military strength used is clearly out of all proportion to the scale of the task of "protection" that has been set.

The U.S. policy aim cited by U.S. newspapers almost every day, but about which C. Weinberger remained silent, is to secure for its air and naval forces permanent access to airfields, ports, and other installations in the Gulf region as well as to station its Central Command's headquarters somewhere on the Gulf's shores. Why? According to some writers, to prepare for a substantial strike against Iran. Others prefer the anti-Soviet option — a concentration of U.S. armed forces to "squeeze" the Soviet Union out of the Gulf.

It sometimes seems that the present U.S. Administration's attitude to the Soviet Union is shaped according to the laws not of politics but of medicine. Typical persecution mania! Incidentally, when Kuwait asked the United States for support last year, Washington was in no hurry to respond. And it was only when an agreement to charter 3 Soviet tankers began to appear in outline that the Americans started fussing and permitted the reflagging of 11 tankers. "Unfortunately," NEW YORK TIMES commentator, T. Wicker writes, "we know that the venture of hoisting the U.S. flag on Kuwaiti tankers was a hasty, knee-jerk response to Kuwait's hints that it might turn to Moscow and thereby 'let the Russians into the Gulf,' although Soviet ships are there already anyway and any map of the region provides grounds for asking why should they not be there."

Thus, the action which Washington publicizes as pro-Kuwaiti and pro-Arab is basically anti-Soviet, but with an Arab sauce, so to speak.

This is the position at the end of July. The United States, to judge from various sources, has mobilized one aircraft carrier with seven escort ships, one landing ship, three cruisers, one destroyer, and four frigates in the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf. I will note in parentheses: The USSR has in the Gulf's waters three minesweepers and one frigate, which are engaged exclusively on ensuring safe passage for Soviet merchant ships. As IZVESTIYA readers already know, the Americans have escorted two tankers — the Bridgeton and the Gas Prince. The former was hit by a mine not far from Kuwait. There were no casualties among the crew. The tanker reached its destination. It now has to make the return voyage.

Tehran addresses bellicose statements to Washington every day. If a serious incident arises at sea -- something nobody wants -- R. Reagan will be faced with a difficult choice: either back down or escalate the incident. In neither case will the proclaimed aims of increasing the situation's stability and guaranteeing free access to oil be achieved.

The Soviet Union is against such a turn of events. We have and have had no perfidious plans to hinder the West's access, including U.S. access, to Arab oil. However, we do have our own interests -- both political and economic -- in the Persian Gulf region. These interests are not aimed at harming anyone. And the best way to protect these interests is to maintain regular friendly relations with the Gulf states. What is needed for this is not so much good warships as good policy. This is why the USSR has advocated reducing the great powers' military presence in the Gulf. This is why the USSR is opposed to unilateral actions which can only worsen the situation.

As always, the Americans are behaving capriciously and showing their complexes [kompleksuyut]. They would very much like to control events at their own discretion and are very reluctant to take any interests other than their own into account. They are even too lazy to think up new grounds for foolhardiness. "Soviet threat" -- and that is all, whether in Nicaragua, the RSA, or the Persian Gulf.

Fate has sent us our partners... And there is nothing we can do. We cannot brush the Americans aside. It is necessary to talk with them. Including about the Gulf.

JORDANIAN ARMS PURCHASES DISCUSSED; NO MIG-29'S

NC301405 Paris AFP in English 1332 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Amman, July 30 (AFP) -- Jordan has placed no orders with the Soviet Union for MIG-29 fighter-bombers, although Moscow is soon to deliver such aircraft to Syria, an informed source at the Soviet Embassy said here Thursday.

His comments came after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on Monday expressed his government's concern over press reports that the Soviet Union was to deliver the planes to both Jordan and Syria.

The United States in October 1985 turned down a Jordanian request to buy 40 war-planes, F-20s or F-16s, and Stinger anti-aircraft missiles for a cost of 1.9 billion dollars.

Jordan then took its shopping list to the Soviet Union and Europe but, according to informed Jordanian sources here, Amman could not raise the necessary funds.

These sources also said that European countries and the Soviet Union could not match U.S. credit facilities.

Arab diplomatic sources here noted that it was not the first time that Jordan had turned to the Soviet Union for weapons although its traditional supplier has been Western Europe.

In 1981, Jordan bought SAM-8 surface-to-air missiles and radar-guided anti-aircraft batteries worth 200 million dollars from the Soviet Union, with funds provided by Iraq.

Arab sources said Jordanian pilots would need Soviet training to fly the MIG-29s, possibly obliging Jordan to accept Soviet officers for a stay of up to 10 years.

Jordan's most immediate problem is to find a financial backer and is still waiting for an answer to a request put to Saudi Arabia.

ACCORD, INDIAN TROOPS IN SRI LANKA REPORTED

BK310525 Moscow in Hindi to India 1400 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] About 1,700 Indian troops landed near Jaffna this morning on the request of Sri Lanka President Junius Jayewardene. They have gone to Sri Lanka in accordance with the accord signed by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Sri Lankan president yesterday to solve the Sri Lankan ethnic issue. The Indian troops have been sent to disarm the Tamil subversives and to maintain peace in the region.

Today, the Sri Lankan rulers are thinking of lifting the martial law that was imposed following the exacerbation of the problem between th Sinhalese and Tamils. Reports from Colombo say Sinhalese extremists are continuing their riots to protest the accord. About 40 people have been killed during the last 24 hours and dozens of others injured. Extremists have been setting houses on fire and attacking police stations.

More on Agreement, Troops

LD301244 Moscow TASS in English 1135 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] New Delhi July 30 TASS -- India and Sri Lanka today embarked on the realization of the agreement signed in Colombo the day before by leaders of the two countries on ways for settling the ethnic crisis in that insular state.

According to reports reaching here, 1,500 Indian servicemen arrived in the Jaffna peninsula early today. The Indian forces will act as observers ensuring the implementation of one of the provisions of the document calling for a ceasefire between armed Tamil groups and Sri Lanka's security forces within a period of 48 hours.

It enters into force tomorrow. According to the PTI news agency, representatives of almost all Tamil armed groups have already declared their readiness to put down arms and stop combat operations.

At the same time Indian and Sri Lankan air force and navy began patrolling of the Palk Strait separating India from Sri Lanka. The objective of the joint operation is to ensure the implementation of the agreement.

The signing of an important document aiming for the settlement of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka was welcomed in India. Indian MPs today stated unanimous support for the agreement between the two countries. The members of the Cabinet of Ministers of India in a separate statement expressed their approval for the bilateral agreement.

SUPREME SOVIET COUNCIL GREETS OAU ASSEMBLY

PM301425 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Jul 87 Second Edition p 1

To the participants in the 23d session of the assembly of heads of state and government of the member states of the OAU:

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers warmly greet the participants in the 23d OAU Assembly session, the supreme forum of African states.

The OAU, the recognized spokesman of the interests and hopes of the peoples of Africa in the struggle for strengthening their political and economic independence and for universal peace and security, has won sincere respect in the Soviet Union.

Soviet people are understanding and sympathetic toward the African countries' desire to unite their efforts to overcome the acute socioeconomic problems inherited from the colonial past and to protect their peoples from rapacious neocolonialist exploitation. Like you, we consider that overcoming underdevelopment, radically improving the economic situation, and solving many other acute and complex problems of developing countries, including the foreign debt, can realistically be achieved by creating a new international economic order and by guaranteeing the economic security of each state under an all-embracing system of international security. In this connection the Soviet Union intends to work consistently so the coming international conference on the interconnection between disarmament and development may make a constructive contribution to the solution of these two most acute problems of modern times and may promote the cause of disarmament, the removal of the threat of nuclear war, and the development of all countries.

The Soviet Union unerringly advocates that all peoples and countries of Africa should have the full opportunity to solve questions of their development and of their internal and external affairs in an atmosphere of peace and stability, without interference from outside. We are convinced that the OAU is called upon to play an important role in a just political settlement of the regional conflicts the imperialist forces use to reinforce their military-political presence on the continent, to maintain neocolonialist supremacy, and to divert the African countries' resources from the tasks of development.

The Soviet Union, together with the African countries, resolutely demands the immediate granting of independence to Namibia on the basis of the corresponding decisions of the United Nations and the OAU, the unconditional ending of Pretoria's aggressive raids on the Frontline States, the speediest liquidation of the inhuman system of apartheid, and the creation of a free, nonracist democratic state in southern Africa. The Soviet people reaffirm their unchanging solidarity with the courageous liberation struggle of the patriots of South Africa and Namibia led by the ANC [African National Congress] and SWAPO [South West African People's Organization], and they express confidence in the triumph of their just cause.

The realities of the present interdependent and integral world are such that the solution of urgent problems of any region, including the African Continent, is indivisible from the overall improvement of the political climate on the whole planet, halting the arms race, and the struggle against attempts by imperialism to shift its burdens onto the shoulders of the peoples of the developing countries. The peoples of Africa and all peoples of the world are vitally interested in relaxing international tension, strengthening trust among states, and limiting and halting the arms race with a move to specific steps of disarmament, primarily nuclear disarmament. There is no doubt that an ever-weightier contribution to the creation of the foundations of an all-embracing system of international peace and security will be made by the OAU, too. The Soviet Union also is prepared in the future to cooperate actively with African countries in the search for a solution to vitally important problems now facing all of mankind, in the struggle for a nuclear-free and nonviolent world, for the establishment of a new international economic order, and against imperialism, neocolonialism, racism, and apartheid.

We wish the participants in the session of the OAU assembly successful and fruitful work.

[Signed] Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet

USSR Council of Ministers

GREETINGS EXCHANGED ON MADAGASCAR HOLIDAY

PM301441 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "On the Anniversary"]

[Text] On the occasion of the Malagasy national holiday the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has sent Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka a telegram wishing the Malagasy people prosperity and success in building a new life and strengthening their sovereignty and national independence.

In his reply telegram D. Ratsiraka expressed thanks for the congratulations.

The telegrams express the conviction that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will continue to develop and deepen for the good of both peoples and for the sake of peace and progress.

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM VISITS TO CONGO, ZAIRE

PM301437 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by A.A. Mokanu, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, returned to Moscow from a trip to the Congo and Zaire on 24 July.

The delegation was met at the airport by L.N. Tolkunov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union, and other officials.

SOVIET FORCES IN GDR VISITED; EXERCISE DESCRIBED

PM280905 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jul 87 Second Edition p 6

[Report by special correspondent A. Gorokhov: "Special Post"]

[Text] Group of Soviet Forces in Germany -- In West Berlin's Tiergarten servicemen from the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany guards unit billeted in the Berlin suburb of Karlshorst stand in a guard of honor at the monument to the Soviet soldiers. This post is held in special account among our armed forces... The Group of Soviet Forces in Germany stands with the GDR National People's Army at a special post to safeguard peace, on the front lines of socialism, on the line dividing the two military-political groupings -- NATO and the Warsaw Pact Organization.

The Group [subhead]

What is the group of forces, what kind of a mechanism is it, so to speak? At any rate it is not a musical box which might be taken off to an antiquary at any moment. That moment has not yet come. Indeed, greasing the axles of this mechanism is now very costly and requires nationwide efforts...

It was with these thoughts that we emerged in our "Uazik" truck onto a road on the firing range of the Magdeburg training center.

The area surrounding the road showed no sign of human presence. Yet it turned out that the day before a whole division had been deployed here on defensive positions: 11,000-12,000 servicemen plus tanks, infantry combat vehicles and armored carriers, artillery, engineering equipment, command staff vehicles, plus... Actually, you would have to spend a long time adding pluses because scientific and technical process has literally burst into the domain of the infantry -- the "queen of the fields" -- and in the past 10-15 years has radically altered its appearance.

There are 78 divisions in combat readiness in the Warsaw Pact Organization. There are 94 in NATO, including French and Spanish divisions. The numerical strength of each division is greater than ours: from 16,000 to 23,000 men. But so far it is not a case of the correlation of forces. We are talking about how complex is this "mechanism" -- the Group of Forces -- which includes a mass of components necessary for efficient service and normal existence. Here the perturbing realities of the military-political situation determine the precision of this mechanism's operation. A high degree of precision, it must be said, on which the quality of defense depends. Because if the winder is weakened you may easily witness some international incident [attraktsion].

What is the reality?

"Not a day elapses," I was told by Colonel General N. Moiseyev, chief of the group's political directorate, "without NATO troop maneuvers being held close to the GDR borders. What is required of us? Firmness and calmness, readiness for an immediate rebuff, unity with our brothers in arms..."

It is impossible to encompass in a single attempt the kaleidoscope of the troops' daily life. Naturally, it is not made up solely of rosy hues. The collective is big -- its concerns are also big: from the combat readiness of units and subunits, discipline and order, to the "trivia" of the social sphere.

A few events and facts from this year... In March a joint exercise by units of the Group of Forces and the GDR National People's Army led by Army General V. Belikov, commander of the Group of Forces in Germany, was held with complete success. Taking part were 23,500 Soviet servicemen, 1,500 servicemen from the GDR, 500 tanks, and tactical aviation subunits. The exercise was observed by 20 states which took part in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. A similar event, to which observers are also invited, is scheduled for late July... There has been a scientific and practical conference of Soviet and German political workers devoted to the activation of the human factor in the defense of the socialist community... Servicemen from the engineering troops subunit under the command of Officer I. Gurdzhi displayed exception self-sacrifice in dealing with an accident at the thermal power station in Magdeburg... Junior Sergeant Ye. Puskarskiy saved 4-year-old Stefania Stein when she was drowning... A rally of wives of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany has been held... Girl triplets were born to the family of Ensign A. Frantsevich. That was also an event...

I talked with Guards Lieutenant Colonels Aleksey Prygun and Valeriy Pavlov, the infantrymen of the eighties, soon after they had reported to the leadership on the latest stage in the combat training entrusted to them. Here are the key elements of our talk.

The infantry receives such complex equipment and armaments that there is much which cannot be explained "manually." The soldiers have now begun to work on training equipment. Does the training equipment base keep pace with combat equipment? By no means. Industry is to blame...

The unit's library contains about 30,000 volumes. That would seem quite good. But, in my interlocutors' opinion, they are "overloaded" with unnecessary literature. I did not believe them and visited the library. Valentina Kotsar gestured in despair: Indeed, she could offer me no work of journalism, prose, or poetry on, for instance, the combat affairs of the Soviet internationalist servicemen in Afghanistan. The army book trade is to blame...

The soldiers serving here does not go on leave, his parents cannot travel to see him, his girlfriend cannot visit him, he receives no parcels from home. The soldier is very bored, there's no denying. For him the commander is both father and mother. Much, of course, does depend on the commander, but not everything. Has the time not come to revise some of the norms of the soldier's allowance established, as they say here, in days of yore. Who is to blame? The financiers and suppliers...

As a rule the wives of officers and ensigns do not work here. No, their work service record is not interrupted but they lose the main thing -- qualifications. Yes, there are serious points to be considered here but the opportunities for work for officers' wives could obviously be expanded...

Balance [subhead]

When the tactical fighters with the insignia of the GDR and Soviet Union air forces, in the course of changes of attitude, steer course 270, that is due West, and Moenchengladbach (FRG) and Brunssum (Netherlands) where the headquarters of, respectively, the Central and Northern groups of armies and main command of the NATO Allied Armed Forces in the so-called Central European theater are located, a certain anxiety arises at these headquarters.

Is the Soviet Group of Forces Commander in Chief not beginning to "lay hands" on Western Europe in general and the FRG in particular? By chance coincidence or whatever, in the NATO military alert system one of the two states of the armed forces is called the "red" alert. It means that the Russians' offensive has already begun or will begin within the next few minutes. The "Soviet military threat," so to speak, but not as propaganda cliches but in the form of specific military instructions.

No, Army General V. Belikov and his staff do not intend to attack anyone. But they are keeping careful track of the "behavior" of the leadership of the more than one million-strong NATO grouping in the Central European theater. This grouping, which includes the Central and Northern groups of armies (7,000 tanks), the second and fourth allied tactical air commands (1,500 combat aircraft and 72 Pershing-1A launchers) is the main one in the NATO allied Armed Forces.

"This is not some army which lags behind the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany for all indicators," Valeriy Aleksandrovich noted. "It consists of crack units kept at wartime strength with a high degree of combat readiness..."

I should add that the grouping's strike power can be intensified by transferring to it the 108 Pershing 2 medium-range ballistic missile launchers stationed in the FRG.

Do the officers and generals serving in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany realize that a spark is enough betweeen the two poles brought so close to turn the all-European house into a nuclear crematorium? Undoubtedly. That is why their attention is so keen toward practical measures to reduce the level of military antagonism in Europe and to develop dialogue between the Warsaw Pact Organization and NATO, which the Warsaw Pact Organization persistently advocates.

"The NATOites admit themselves," I was told by a colonel who has dealings with the Soviet Euromissile initilatives [imeyushchiy otnosheniye k predmety sovetskikh initsiativ po yevroraketam] and therefore asked for his name to be given, "that they can turn out tanks and aircraft like pancakes. But you can only be amazed at their way of counting our combat units. For instance, we have a tank waiting to be sent for scrap but over there it turns out that it is being counted. So that's how they do it...

"So far what is happening is that the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff is seeking a response to a possible Euromissiles agreement: It is studying ways of deploying additional U.S. nuclear arms on European territory or somewhere in the vicinity."

Exercise [subhead]

The exercise which I had the opportunity to attend was one of the first which was also attended, in keeping with the accords of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-building Measures and Disarmament, by foreign observers from 20 countries, including 11 NATO countries. Let me add that a total of 25 exercises in different regions of Warsaw Pact countries have been planned for this year. These are so-called notifiable mililtary activities. Observers will be present at nine of them.

I will not burden the reader with descriptions of the attempts by the "blues" to penetrate the "orange" defenses, the counterattack by the "orange," or tales about the landing in force, the collaboration between ground forces and the Air Force, or the work done by the artillery. The usual expression is: The set goals were achieved.

While at the command and observation post of the motorized rifle regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel V. Andriyevskiy, deployed in forward defense positions, I heard good words spoken about the sappers. They were not spoken out of simple politeness. Indeed, we had cut through the entire depth of defense by a whole division and failed to notice... that it was there.

It was no accident that foreign observers, some of whom were evidently infantry men, had been literally crawling along the communications lines, trenches, fighting bays, and shelters when they were brought to Lieutenant Valeriy Stolbov's platoon. The platoon commander and his men were asked questions like: "What is the size of your platoon's defense front?" I am convinced that the young lieutenant had hitherto never had occasion to come in contact with senior NATO officers. But he behaved properly: "What is the front like? It accords with regulations!" "And how long will you be able to hold it?" "For as long as we are ordered to!"

The engineering troops of the Group of Forces are headed by 50-year-old Lieutenant General A. Ponomarev, whose father, an infantry captain, was killed in Moldavia in 1945.

"Our profession is inconspicuous," Anatoliy Aleksandrovich told me, "but it is very necessary. I'll make no secret of it, I'm proud to be a military engineer. Yes, we did help the troops whenever necessary, especially on fortification matters; unfortunately, not all officers are sufficiently familiar with them. But that is just one aspect of the matter. We could, for example, thwart any attack. The sappers have all they need for this purpose..."

But let us return to the exercise. Here is the observers' opinion. Colonel Leif Fransson (Sweden): "I found the exercise organization excellent. We were able to follow the progress of different 'combat operations' and talk to soldiers and officers. I think that everything is in order..."

Brigadier Josef Klemminger (Austria): "Disarmament is possible only if we really have confidence in each other. I welcome the fact that representatives of East and West managed to meet precisely here, on GDR territory, on the border between the two military alliances. We soldiers know how terrible war can be.

Bundeswehr Lieutenant Colonel Heinz Kanmann drew the following conclusion in conversation with me:

"Lieutenant Colonel Joachim Hornig and I were able to fulfill our set task. The demonstration was very interesting, and I would like to comment on the great hospitality of the Soviet Army and National People's Army. I hope that maneuver observations in the future will be organized more flexibly..."

Despite the sensational nature of the first official appearance in history of Bundeswehr officers on GDR territory, a deeper impression was made on me by the meeting with U.S. Brigadier General Philip H. Mallory. I remember the question he asked in all seriousness, a question which would have stunned anyone: "And what is Yuriy Gagarin doing now?" I had to tell him what had happened to the world's first cosmonaut. But that is an aside. As for the exercises which had just ended, the brigadier general, who serves in the 7th Army Corps of U.S. Armed Forces in Europe, later remarked:

"Confidence-building measures are very important. Everything we saw here in the past 4 days has helped this. We were convinced of the practical implementation of the provisions of Stockholm conference's final document. This is an important beginning..."

ROMANIAN NAVAL SHIP VISITS SEVASTOPOL PORT

PM301543 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Guests of Sevastopol"]

[Text] Sevastopol, 26 Jul -- The hero-city's shore batteries gave the traditional nations' salute to greet the Romanian Navy training ship, the Mircea, which has arrived here on an official friendly visit. The Mircea is sailing under the flag of Rear Admiral Constantin Iordache, deputy commander of the Romanian Navy.

C. Iordache visited Ye. V. Generalov, Chairman of the Sevastopol city Soviet ispolkom and Vice Admiral V. ye. Selivanov, chief of staff of the Red Banner Black Sea Fleet. Reciprocal visits were paid to the guest ship.

Ship Concludes Visit

PM310825 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Jul 87 First Edition p 3

[Correspondent Subcommander V. Pasyakin report: "Visit Over"]

[Text] Sevastopol, 28 Jul -- The Romanian Navy's training ship Mircea has concluded an official friendly visit to the hero-city of Sevastopol under the flag of Rear Admiral Constantin Iordache, deputy commander of the Romanian Navy. Romanian sailors participated in the festivities devoted to USSR Navy Day and made excursions to historical sites in the city and the Crimea.

Hundreds of Sevastopol residents and guests of the city visited the Romanian sailor's ship and familiarized themselves with their life and routine.

The training ship Mircea left Sevastopol today.

EXPULSION OF DIPLOMATS FROM NORWAY PROTESTED

LD310951 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0920 GMT 31 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jul (TASS) -- The following was announced today at the press center of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Some days ago the Norwegian charge d'affaires in the USSR was invited to the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where a resolute protest was made regarding the unjustified and provocative decision of the Norwegian authorities to expel several Soviet representatives. It was stressed that this action was of a clearly unfriendly nature.

At the same time, the attention of the charge d'affaires was drawn to the fact that second secretaries at the Norwegian Embassy in Moscow Rune Aasheim and Aage Grutle -- who had previously left the country -- had engaged in activity which was (?incompatible) with their official status.

As for Soviet-Norwegian relations in general, the Soviet Union shares the view of Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Thorvald Stoltenberg on the need to strengthen links and continue the political dialogue between the two countries.

GORBACHEV REPLIES TO ITALIAN TOWN ON CHERNOBYL

LD301833 Moscow TASS in English 1815 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Ceraso (Campania Province) July 30 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Tarakanov:

A mass rally held in this small south Italian town became a vivid and unforgettable demonstration on friendship between Italian and Soviet peoples. During the rally the two authorities were handed a reply by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to an appeal of peace and friendship, which Ceraso residents addressed to the Soviet people when receiving a group of firemen, who took part in eliminating the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. The Soviet firemen were given a special award, "The Golden Seagull", for their great contribution to the cause of protecting the environment. The award was instituted by the local municipality.

Mikhail Gorbachev's message reads: "I was deeply moved by your message of peace and friendship to the Soviet people and the moving reception accorded to the heroic firemen of Chernobyl."

"Indeed, the Chernobyl tragedy made people on our plant realise more fully that the nuclear age demands a new political outlook, the freeing of our planet from nuclear weapons and joint efforts to strengthen international safeguards ensuring the utilisation of atomic energy exclusively for peaceful purposes.

I would like to assure you that my country and the Soviet leadership will do everything possible to make this happen.

I wish the residents of Ceraso and the entire Italian people peace and happy life."

The ceremony of handing the reply message of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee to the Ceraso residents aroused great interest in Italy. The leadership of Campania's district council (local self-government body) arrived in the town to attend the meeting, which attracted nearly all residents of Ceraso and many towns in the vicinity.

"Mikhail Gorbachev's reply to the message of ordinary Italians and peasants produced a great impression on us," the mayor of Ceraso, Vincenzo Maione, told the meeting. "It underlines the great attention which the Soviet Union pays to the problems of strengthening peace, friendship and cooperation between peoples. We all, living on one planet, need detente and disarmament. Only in the conditions of a lasting peace one can cope with tasks facing any country. It is necessary to put an end to mistrust and fear which divide people and to join efforts to work for the peaceful future of mankind at large."

PCI'S NATTA NOTES ARMS OFFERS, GULF SITUATION

LD291619 Moscow TASS in English 1419 GMT 29 Jul 87

[Text] Rome July 29 TASS -- Alessandro Natta, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party [PCI], addressed on Tuesday a plenary meeting of the Central Committee and the Central Control Commission of the Italian Communist Party with a [word indistinct] position and initiatives of the Italian Communist Party at a new political stage". [quotation mark as received]

He stressed in the international section of the report that Soviet proposals on full elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe and in the Asian part of the USSR, as well as in the USA, could help remove the last obstacles on the way to the earliest achievement of final agreement on double zero option. Alessandro Natta described as meaningless the position of NATO countries on preserving "Pershing 1A" missiles on the territory of the FRG. He stressed the importance of boosting the movement for peace and disarmament in Italy.

The party will never resign itself to the presence of American cruise missiles in Comiso and Sicily, the general secretary of the Italian Communist Party said. The Italian Government should review its position on the participation in the American Star Wars programme. Alessandro Natta noted that concrete possibilities arose recently to achieve an agreement, opening new prospects in the field of disarmament, detente and international cooperation. In this connection, he stressed the importance of taking measures to reverse the arms race, achieve balanced and verifiable agreements on cuts of all kinds of armaments, a political settlement of regional conflicts and the establishment of a new economic order.

The general secretary of the Italian Communist Party pointed to the extremely tense situation which remains in the Persian Gulf area. There is an urgent need for the convocation of an international conference which would facilitate a peaceful settlement in the Middle East through political talks.

Having reminded of reforms and reform projects in the USSR and other socialist countries Alessandro Natta stressed that the Italian Communist Party positively evaluated and supported them.

PRAVDA REPORTS GORBACHEV ZELENOGRAD WALKABOUT

PM301204 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jul 87 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "M.S. Gorbachev's Visit to Zelenograd"]

[Text] On 29 July M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, visited the scientific center of the electronics industry in the city of Zelenograd near Moscow. He studied samples of modern electronic articles and computer equipment used in machine building, metal working, and other sectors of the national economy, as well as in space research.

V.G. Kolesnikov, USSR minister of the electronics industry, reported that in Zelenograd -- a major scientific and industrial center -- they develop and produce integrated circuits: microprocessors, data storage systems, and other instruments, and specialized manufacturing equipment and materials. The comprehensive nature of the scientific center ensures the high rate of development of output and the advanced standard of research.

Flexible automated lines, automated shops, computer-based design systems, and assembly shops for complex manufacturing equipment were demonstrated.

During his meetings with leaders of enterprises, scientists, and workers M.S. Gorbachev drew attention to the fact that the electronics industry is not yet fully satisfying the constantly growing demand for electronic equipment. There are still a good many enterprises in the sector which do not meet contractual commitments, and that affects the work of many consumers. All collectives of enterprises should undoubtedly make their contribution to the restructuring, the acceleration of scientific and technical progress, and the broad introduction of electronics into the national economy. The importance of joint creative work by electronics institutes and research organizations in the machine building and instrument making sectors was particularly stressed.

The Zelenograd working people cordially welcomed M.S. Gorbachev. There were conversations with workers, engineers, technicians, and scientists.

M.S. Gorbachev: I have been in this district before, but it is my first time here.

Voices: What is your impression?

M.S. Gorbachev: As to how microelectronics is developing, we are not satisfied, but it is the right kind of dissatisfaction. It is developing rapidly, but it must develop still more rapidly, because what you are doing is exceptionally important both for technology and for science, for the country's progress. Without you, there will be no movement forward, no scientific and technical progress. You are one of the few sectors which should give our machine building its second wind, and it is machine building which should back up the entire national economy. Therefore, what you are doing is very important and necessary.

I am pleased, you know, that, first, in recent years you have already pulled yourselves up considerably, although we still lag behind.

But above all, I am pleased about what is happening in our sector, especially in computer technology. And in electronics too, which is rather broad, I am pleased that the prospects are very good, good groundwork has been done, and a breakthrough is possible and will happen. Therefore, from this viewpoint I have a good impression.

The weak points and where they are is clear today. And there is a clear idea of what must be done in the near future so as to reach world standards and not give ground, and you have already reached a higher standard than other countries in some respects. Therefore, I must say frankly that I have a good impression.

But all this is the sphere of production, science and technology. There is another side to the matter -- how do you live? Here it has turned out that production has gathered speed, science has developed, the city has grown, but social development and Zelenograd itself, which at one time was very respectable, as, indeed, it remains to this day, have begun to lag behind. To lag behind from the viewpoint of development as a city, of people's living conditions.

Hence the problems, especially housing problems, and also there are these problems from the viewpoint of supply, as you have said. It has been agreed that, with the Moscow party gorkom and the Gosplan, we will look not only at what we want from you, in the sense of science and technology, but also at what you need so as to be able to work more efficiently. In general, comrades, we will examine all this most attentively.

And for your part, I ask you to put your hearts into everything; the years have now come when we must stand firm.

We have everything. And that is not just a phrase, I can say that confidently. And if we criticize ourselves so that the fur flies, as nobody has ever criticized us before -- from the West, from the East, or from anywhere -- it is because we are strong. We will withstand this criticism, the people will stand firm and the party will stand firm, but none of us must tolerate what has grown up.

Voices: True.

M.S. Gorbachev: Everything must be restructured. We must react to criticism. The good things work in our favor, and nobody can take that away. But we must rid ourselves of the bad things in all our affairs: human, production, social -- in everything. We must maintain the traditions that are strong among the people. And at the same time get rid of parasitism, Oblomovism, and idle chatter. None of this is our style. We have boosted our country and taken it to a very high level. Previous generations did this, but they were working in different conditions, they were less educated, less well armed than we are now. So we, the present generation, should have our say! And the people have already embarked seriously on this.

We must increase labor productivity, and then the opportunity will arise to fully staff and bring into play the capacities that have been created. That is the first thing. Second, where it is necessary and expedient, two or three shifts must be introduced, on condition that there is the appropriate concern for people. People must be freed so that they can get to work in the service sphere. Look what a neglected state it is in.

So we cannot follow a path where people would not have work. And we will not allow that.

But nor does it suit us to have a situation where the self-seekers have too many opportunities, where we do not have enough people anywhere and the self-seekers start dictating terms. We will eliminate this situation and put an end to self-seeking. That is beyond doubt. We all have an interest in this, I think.

After all, what happens among our construction workers: If you do not conclude a contract for R12, one of them says, I will not work, I will go to another foreman. And wage-padding begins, overreporting begins, crime begins.

We hand out money for nothing. And if money is not backed up by changes in the production sphere, by the production of goods, then it is just paper, and who needs that?

We have handed out a very great deal of money that has not been earned. Look at our enormous management apparatus. Some 18 million in management! An apparatus like that is not necessary.

Voice: And will it be cut?

M.S. Gorbachev: We have now, for instance, amalgamated 4 ministries, created 2, and cut 760 people.

It is important here not to make a fuss, not to get not and bothered, so as not to make stupid mistakes. Because then everyone will start to worry and will say: "Who needs this restructuring, if such and such happens." No. If we are going to do anything, we must do everything firmly and not give ground. Everything will change, it will change, and it must start with the labor collective, but also there must be movement from above, to meet them. There must be movement from above and from below.

We will test everything and work everything out, comrades. We must not be afraid, we must be bolder in seeking and trying things out. Among the people, our people, we have accumulated so much intelligence, potential, and responsibility tht we can act boldly and confidently. And if we make a mistake, so what? The biggest mistake is to do nothing.

Voices: Mikhail Sergeyevich, many thanks for improving society. For giving us a boost.

M.S. Gorbachev: Thank you for your support.

But you know, you do much for the country, but you must do even more.

Voices: We understand. We are ready to do it. M.S. Gorbachev: We are moving forward, we want to move even more rapidly. Without you, without machine tool building, without electrical equipment, without instrument making, there will be no progress. Therefore you must realize that, and you must also take it into account and help us. You have the cadres, and the scientific potential is good. We hope things will go well with you.

Voices: We thank the party and government.

M.S. Gorbachev: If we all have more discipline and order and a better attitude toward each other and the cause, if we have an atmosphere that is so open [otkrytyy], decent, and respectful, then our life will change more quickly....

People say control is needed, this or that is needed, but who must do it?

Voices: We, the people.

M.S. Gorbachev: If we rely on the controllers, then we will have to increase that apparatus even more. We must do it through democracy, the people must participate in everything -- that is the main guarantee. The people see everything, know everything. And no controller can help unless the people know everything. That is why glasnost is needed.

Voices: True!

M.S. Gorbachev: People must know, then there will be order.

M.S. Gorbachev visited Zelenograd's trading center, inquired about the range and quality of goods, and talked with shoppers about how people's requirements are satisfied.

M.S. Gorbachev familiarized himself with the work of the interschool production training combine. Here "Mysteries of the Ocean" electronic games are assembled on the conveyor belt. The combine leaders explained that the schoolchildren produce high quality goods, and 99 percent of the output is accepted on the first presentation.

M.S. Gorbachev: Do you tell your parents about these successes? They should pull themselves up too.

Now I have a special question for you: Are you watching the restructuring? Have you studied what it is? Do you argue in class? Why are you so quiet -- M.S. Gorbachev addresses a young installation worker -- what is your name? Misha? My namesake -- do not be shy...

Misha Petrov: Yes, we discuss all the most interesting topics of the day in our political information circles. We take turns in preparing reports on important events.

M.S. Gorbachev asks the kids whether their products are popular in Czechoslovakia. The schoolchildren answer in unison: "Yes, we receive good letters."

M.S. Gorbachev: You see, kids, you are already taking an interest in whether your work sells well in the stores. That is good. And I think we are making a mistake in not extending this form of participation by schoolchildren in our common affairs. You have worked for 3 hours, and the day is long. There is still time to have fun.

... You know, everything we are embarking on now, what we call restructuring, we are doing it for you. Get ready. Develop your muscles, but do not forget to develop your knowledge too. Because things do not work that way now. You cannot cope with modern technology and modern life by muscles alone. It is a good thing that you are studying and developing your knowledge too. [Gorbachev ends]

In conversations with designers of new technology and enterprise leaders, M.S. Gorbachev gave a high assessment of the results achieved, and stressed that electronics is in the front line of scientific and technical progress, and the solution of major problems of the intensification of social production depend on its accelerated development. The achievements of microelectronics directly determine the course of modernization of the machine building complex, expand the spheres of utilization of computer technology and information science, and ensure the computerization of education and the social sphere.

In this connection the importance of the priority development of all avenues of the electronics industry as a basic sector of the economy was stressed. The task was set of further improving the consumer properties of household electronics goods produced by the ministry and considerably expanding the volume of their production.

Everyone whom the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee talked with spoke of the Soviet people's warm support for the party's course of acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development, the radical restructuring of economic management, the improvement of the economic machinery, and the democratization of all aspects of society's life, the course elaborated by the 27th party congress and the January and June Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee. The collectives and enterprises are working at an intensive pace to accomplish the tasks entrusted to them, and have joined enthusiastically in the socialist competition in honor of the 70th anniversary of Great October.

M.S. Gorbachev was accompanied by L.N. Zaykov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; N.V. Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and chairman of the USSR Gosplan; B.L. Tolstykh, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology; G.I. Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences; and senior officials of party and soviet organs.

PONOMAREV: 'EXTREMISTS' EXPLOIT TATAR ISSUE

PM301131 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 6

[V. Ponomarev article: "There Is No Smoke Without Fire. Regarding the Stay in Moscow of a Crimean Tatar Group"]

[Text] I have before me telegrams and letters. News reports from Central Asia, the Crimea, Krasnodar Kray, and other places where Crimean Tatars live and work. People there have welcomed with gratification the news that a commission has been set up at the highest state level with instructions to examine an entire package of questions. Meetings are being held in many towns and villages to explain the businesslike and serious approach to the resolution of complex questions, the situation actually prevailing in the Crimea, and that the state commission's work will necessarily take a certain amount of time. At these meetings, being held under conditions of complete openness and frankness, people show understanding for the situation and call for considered and responsible attitudes.

"When I reported back to people in Tashkent who sent me to the capital," teacher Refat Godzhenov reports, "the overwhelming majority agreed that we must firmly and calmly support the government's efforts. But that same meeting was also attended by an agitator. He was sent there by a small group of extremists who refuse to cooperate with the authorities, raise absurd political demands, and openly solicit 'assistance' from abroad. He was Nariman Kadyrov, who tried to persuade people that they were supposedly being deceived. But he had no success in fanning passions. The agitator was sent away and asked to go back to those who had sent him."

That is what happened in Tashkent. But this ought not to be perceived as an annoying chance event or an untypical display by unbalanced individual citizens. There is no smoke without fire. Behind such smoke one can always find those who, in the civic context, champion nothing more than the sum total of exclusively personal and selfish interests.

For example, a group of residents, mainly from Krasnodar Kray, appeared in Moscow recently. Having proclaimed itself the sole and plenipotentiary spokesman of the Crimean Tatar people, this group started public demonstrations under provocative slogans, sending ultimatum petitions to state and party organs, and organizing so-called news conferences for foreign journalists and other events calculated to fan passions around the question being examined by the government commission.

A certain Reshat Dzhemilev, his brother Mustafa, and several of their close associates are trying to manipulate this group. In order to create a semblance of "broad representation" they hastily arranged for the provocative arrival of a group of young people and even women with children. The "action group" based itself in the apartments of Moscow acquaintances who played the role of agitators by disseminating far from truthful information via individual and excessively "credulous" foreign correspondents, and ultimately preventing the examination of the set issues in a calm atmosphere.

Playing on people's national feelings and misinforming them about the measures being taken by the authorities, Reshat Dzhemilev, who has numerous convictions to his name, the self-styled writer Eskander Fazylov, and the physician Fuat Ablyamitov, who had abandoned his patients, led those who had come to the capital out onto the streets of Moscow. But how amazed these people were when they did not see this "trio" in their ranks: Dzhemilev was to be found "at the center of GUM, by the fountain," while the other two, as they later explained, suffered a "sudden migraine attack..."

Worked up to the limit by the extremists' goading, women and young people obediently sign petitions and protests. What are they complaining about? About the truth as described in the TASS report? But what is done is done. History cannot be refashioned in anyone's favor. The facts of bourgeois nationalists' collaboration with the German fascist occupiers are well known, and the injustice of the wholesale deportation of Crimean Tatars is equally well known. But the actual mention of traitors who were directly involved in the killing of their own compatriots -- Soviet citizens of different nationalities including Crimean Tatars and wounded and captured Red Army servicemen -- was perceived by the "petitioners" as an insult against their whole people. The same old tunes! There must be no half-truths in the time of glasnost. No one is allowed to alter history to his own taste and liking. But no one is allowed to lump villains and honest people together, as Dzhemilev and some of his acolytes want to do.

The country knows and remembers everything. It remembers and honors twice Hero of the Soviet Union Sultan Amet-Khan and Heroes of the Soviet Union Abraim Reshidov, Tayfuk Abdul, Seitnafi Seitveliyev, and Uzeir Abduramanov. It remembers Seit-Nebi Abduramanov and Leonid Velilyayev, bearers of all three classes of the Order of Glory, and Generals Ablyakim Gafarov and Ismail Bulatov. The people will never forget Alime Abdennanova, who was posthumously awarded a combat order -- the legendary Soviet intelligence officer who organized and led an antifascist underground group in the Crimea and died in Gestapo cells. Nor will they forget the thousands of other glorious names of Crimean Tatars who defended their socialist fatherland in the common rank.

The people and the country speak with respect and pride the names of Heroes of Socialist Labor E. Aliyev, D. Zinabatdinov, M. Chachi, and others. And also the names of many Crimean Tatars -- academicians, deputies, republican organ leaders, party and soviet officials, production pacemakers, writers, scientists, and figures of culture and art.

But we also know about Dzhemilev's "spiritual brothers" in New York, including Memet Muyedinov, hack writer from the former profascist newspaper AZAD KRYM. Now he goes by the name of Sevdiyar. This has already been reported by PRAVDA VOSTOKA. We also know how Dzhemilev's "spiritual brother" and other fascist stooges fought for the victory of the "1000-Year Reich" and how they acclaimed Hitler in 1942 as "the great liberator of the peoples from bolshevism." It was to this "little brother" that Dzhemilev sent a 70th birthday greetings telegram, expressing servile hopes that the "common goals" will be attained. Are these by any chance the goals which Dzhemilev is aiming for today by speculating on certain questions and trying to fan interethnic differences and passions?

Foreign news agency reports make it clear that the enterprising "initiators" regularly lock themselves inside the apartments of a certain Grigoryants and a certain Senderov, which are meeting places for a narrow circle of foreign correspondents who are particularly keen on sensational news. Each day, these "news conferences" held behind closed doors spread to the West distorted reports about conversations between citizens from among the Crimean Tatars and representatives of top party and soviet organs, fabrications about the Crimean Tatars' life, pretentious statements, disclaimers, and so on. Now it has become even clearer that these self-styled leaders are hardly concerned with the Tatar people's fate but are attracted -- more than anything else -- by the idea of potential scandal and the desire to help certain Western circles hinder the beneficial processes occurring in the Soviet Union.

Attempts to pressure the government commission which has been set up only hinder the examination of the question. This has already been said. This is perfectly well understood by all who are today firmly distancing themselves from the extremists. Residents of the Crimea are well aware, for example, that Muksim Osmanov, a respected member of the community, has harshly condemned any appeals to foreign governments, holding the view that this question is one of our country's strictly internal affairs.

By making appeals to glasnost and democratization the handful of extremists are literally shutting up anyone who may express a different opinion. Honest representatives of the people, who are telling people the truth about the measures being taken by the party and the government, are being chased out of Moscow by sophisticated methods of psychological pressure and intimidation. For example, absolute demands are being made for unconditional submission to the majority. But what is this "majority"? It consists of those whom Dzhemilev has gathered around himself. That was how a group of Fergana Valley residents were hounded out of Moscow. A letter from Seyran Useinov is circulating by hand among Crimean Tatars. It was those who today in Moscow's squares are agitating more loudly than anyone else about glasnost who have tried to deprive him and other honest citizens of the right to speak.

But the truth cannot be concealed from people. And some of those who quite recently gave their blessings to their relatives on their way to Moscow -- having heard about the, to put it mildly, unseemly activity by the handful of extremist gang leaders -- are asking their relatives to immediately return home and not to disgrace their people. Numerous letters and telegrams expressing indignation have been sent to the capital. They are arriving at the Central Committee and at newspapers.

"A small group is urging the Crimean Tatars who are in Moscow to engage in illegal actions which are a disgrace to our people. They try to appeal to the West, spread rumors, and sow among people the seeds of doubt and mistrust in the steps being taken by the party and the government to resolve the Crimean Tatar question." [paragraph continues]

The extremists' actions are being condemned at rallies and meetings held by Crimean Tatar representatives jointly with party organs in Uzbekistan's labor collectives," according to a letter from Central Asia, where the majority of Crimean Tatars live. They show understanding of the problem's complexity, as well as consideration and responsibility.

The slander campaign launched by the extremists against those who call for calm and dialogue without threats or provocations is perhaps best described in an open letter by Communist and journalist Timur Dagdzhi, a recognized authority among Crimean Tatars. He describes as the "Dzhemilev Company" those who are trying to usurp the right to represent a whole people. Could it be, he asks, that they find it necessary to slander others in order to gratify their own excessive ambitions. Slander has been heaped not only on Dagdzhi himself but also on Rollan Kadyyev, university lecturer from Samarkand, and many other Soviet citizens. Just what has not been said about them to sully their good names and implant suspicion and mistrust toward them! Dagdzi recalls how suspicious characters in the Fergana Valley suddenly started collecting signatures for a petition requesting the authorities to put him behind bars for...links with the West. The base methods used by agitators! Now the "Dzhemilev Company" is fabricating all sorts of fables about teacher Refat Godzhenov, engineer Izzet Izetdinov, and others to make people doubt their honesty and integrity. For whom are the Dzhemilev brothers working? Timur Dagdzhi asks.

The people, he writes, have always sent to Moscow the creme de la creme: Communists, production pacemakers, war veterans, heroes of the Soviet Union. Nor do I do understand -- Dagdzhi writes -- Fuat Ablyamitov, who nominated the repeatedly convicted Mustafa Dzhemilev as a candidate for people's deputy. Since when has a criminal record been a matter of prestige for us, Dagdzhi complains in all fairness.

Are these not questions which provide their own answer?

Addressing the Crimean Tatars in his open letter, Timur Dagdzhi reminds them: "Today, when truly revolutionary processes are occurring in the country, we must be very vigilant and must not succumb to provocation.... To try to ascribe some hostile, anti-Soviet, Islamic aspect to our problem at this crucial moment means to cast aspersions on the Crimean Tatars and jeopardize the positive resolution of our question."

People ask in many letters: Why is it that our law enforcement organs have been uninvolved in all this? Are the numerous -- and now publicly known -- instances of slander, agitation, and even provocation not breaches of public order? Why should democracy and legality retreat in the face of instances of total license? Perfectly legitimate questions, in my opinion, but I do believe that the question of calling the extremists to order, curbing the agitators, and preventing them from torpedoing a calm and thorough dialogue in an area as delicate as that of national relations is primarily a matter for the Crimean Tatars themselves.

TATAR SAYS 'TIME IS NEEDED' FOR SOLUTION

LD301007 Moscow TASS in English 0955 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Dushanbe July 30 TASS -- A balanced approach is needed in settling the destiny of Crimean Tatars, one of them, 50-year-old Aidar Ametov [name as received], is convinced. He works as the chief mechanic at a big textile plant in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan.

Like other Crimean Tatars living in this Central Asian Republic Aidar welcomes the formation of a special commission in Moscow that will study the set of problems raised by citizens from among Crimean Tatars.

Aidar belongs to the majority which understands that time is needed for the solution of the question. He disapproves of the attempts by extremists to put pressure on the government. "Every person who wants a just solution should display restraint", Ametov told a TASS correspondent. "The whipping up of passions will only be detrimental". He is especially angered that some Crimean Tatars make appeals to the West. "This is our internal business and nobody should meddle in it", Aidar Ametov said.

"Of course I feel pulled to go to the land of my forefathers. But I am not going there not because somebody is stopping me", Ametov went on. "Those who want are returning to the Crimea. But many of us have struck such firm roots in the new places that it is not easy to just pack up and go. The more so that nobody is restricting us here in any way".

Ametov got his higher education here in Central Asia. His work has earned him government awards. His elder son is studying at the same polytechnical institute which he himself had graduated.

POLICE KEEP WESTERN PRESS AWAY FROM TATARS

AU301133 Paris AFP in English 1109 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Moscow, July 30 (AFP) — Tatars seeking to have their community allowed to return to its Crimean homeland were on Thursday banned from demonstrating against TASS outside the official news agency's main offices, Soviet dissidents said.

TASS reported, however, that "a group of extremist Crimean Tatars chanting inflammatory slogans" had staged a demonstration at the Pushkin Square, near its offices in central Moscow.

A strong police force was deployed along the route the demonstrators would have taken from the Pushkin underground station to the news agency's premises, and Army trucks were parked in the vicinity.

TASS quoted the Moscow chief of police, Petr Bogdanov, as saying that "efforts to exacerbate the situation continued. It is easy to see that it is a show being put on for Western correspondents."

The Tatars had said that police had previously told them that, provided they alerted the authorities, they could demonstrate anywhere they wished, except in the Red Square for fear of hostility by Muscovites.

After learning that the demonstration was banned, the dissidents said, the Tatars decided to return to the Ismailovo Park, in northeastern Moscow, where they have met every day since Tuesday.

Western correspondents seeking to speak to the 300 or so Tatars assembled there were stopped at the entrance to the park by uniformed and plainclothes police, some doghandlers.

Under a heavy downpour, a police captain said journalists could not be allowed into the park "because of the bad weather."

He said the Tatars had been brought back to the park in police vans.

The Tatars, who have been allowed to demonstrate here since July 22, accuse TASS of falsifying their history by saying that Tatars took part in the Nazi killing of 86,000 other Soviet citizens during World War II. [passage omitted]

Dissidents who have housed some of the Tatars staying in Moscow for about a month said police had alerted their guests Thursday morning that the scheduled demonstration in front of TASS headquarters, had been banned.

Sergey Grigoryants, a Soviet dissident released from prison camp earlier this year, and Larissa Bogoraz, widow of Anatoliy Marchenko, a dissident who died in prison late last year, said police had come to their homes to alert Tatars staying with them that the demonstration was banned.

Police also told them that the Tatars were breaching domestic passport regulations by over staying in Moscow, Mrs. Bogoraz said.

Mrs. Bogoraz also said that police had told her she was violating a regulation which allowed her only one guest for more than five days every year. "It is the first time that I have heard about that regulation," she said.

POLITBURO DISCUSSES AES SAFETY, RECENT VISITS

PM311005 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jul 87 First Edition p 1

[Text] At a session today the CPSU Central Committee Politburo examined the question of setting up highly reliable automated control systems for technological processes at atomic stations. A decision by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on this matter specified a series of measures aimed at elaborating control systems of a high technical level, which will ensure a further improvement in the operational safety of AES.

The medical and ecological situation and the effect of working conditions on public health were examined. The urgent need to improve the situation in these areas was stressed. It was noted that now, as never before, attention and universal effort are demanded by the struggle against pollution of the atmosphere and of bodies of water; unswerving observance of medical norms and rules in the design, construction and reconstruction of industrial and other facilities; and consistent improvement of the working conditions of workers, employees and kolkhoz workers. It was recognized that, with these aims, the USSR Council of Ministers will carry out a series of top priority measures to improve the ecological and medical-hygienic situation, and will do the necessary work to draw up a state program for the protection of the environment and rational use of the natural resources of the USSR in the 13th 5-Year-Plan and in the long term up to the year 2005.

The Politburo approved the results of a conversation between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] and chairman of the State Council of the Republic, during which the sides reaffirmed their mutual desire to expand and strengthen the relations of friendship between the CPSU and the KPRP and the Soviet and Cambodian peoples. It was stressed that the Soviet Union supports the policy of the leadership of the People's Republic of Kampuchea aimed at national reconciliation and is willing to promote in every way a just political settlement of the Cambodian problem.

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo session approved the results of the talks between Comrades Dobrynin and Medvedev and Axen, member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee. The session also made decisions on a number of other questions of the country's socioeconomic development and international policy.

MOSCOW DOMESTIC REPORTS CHERNOBYL TRIAL VERDICTS

LD310808 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 31 Jul 87

[Text] The trial of those persons found guilty of causing the accident at the atomic power station has ended.

The sentence imposed on those found guilty of causing the accident at Chernobyl AES carries a serious lesson and a stern warning against slackness, lack of discipline, and irresponsibility regarding the carrying out of duties.

On 29 July the panel of judges for criminal cases of the USSR Supreme Soviet chaired by Brize, member of the USSR Supreme Court, with the participation of State Prosecutor Shadrin, senior assistant to the USSR procurator general, completed in Chernobyl their examination of the criminal case of the former heads of the station.

The hearing lasted more than 3 weeks. Dozens of witnesses and victims were heard; actual evidence resulting from investigation was examined, as were the results of the work of the governmental commission and the conclusions of experts and specialists. All of this once again convincingly demonstrated the true reasons for the accident, to reconstruct the real picture of what happened, and to prove irrefutably the guilt of the accused.

Bryukhanov, former station director, was found to be one of those bearing primary guilt for the accident. He was the head of a technologically complicated enterprise but did not ensure its reliable safety in operation or the rigorous carrying out of established rules by the personnel. Lack of supervision and a low level of production and labor discipline at the station had occurred previously. Violations of technological instructions had frequently been concealed with his knowledge and the reasons which gave rise to them were not eliminated.

The absence of mutual exactingness and the lack of a principled attitude led to a situation in which among the leadership of the AES and some of the specialists an atmosphere of anything goes, complacency, and carelessness had arisen.

All of this aided the occurrence and the development of the accident and caused the clumsy and indecisive actions of the staff in extreme conditions.

Manifesting confusion and cowardice, Bryukhanov did not take measures to limit the accident, did not put into operation the plan for protection of the staff and the population from radioactivity and, in the information which he provided, deliberately reduced the figures for the levels of radiation — which impeded a timely evacuation of people from the danger zone.

The court revealed facts about gross neglect of professional duties by Fomin, former chief engineer at the AES, and his deputy, Dyatlov. While being responsible for the preparation of cadres operating the plant, they did not organize this work in the proper manner and did not ensure observance of technical discipline by the power station staff; furthermore, they themselves systematically violated professional instructions and ignored directions from supervisory organs.

Having decided to carry out tests on the fourth power set before it was taken out of operation for a scheduled repair, Bryukhanov, Fomin, Dyatlov, and also Kovalenko, former chief of the reactor hall, did not ensure that it was in accordance with the established procedures, did not analyze all the peculiarities of the experiment which was about to take place, and did not take the necessary additional measures to ensure safety.

The duty staff on shift at the set turned out to be unprepared for an accident. Rogozhkin, former shift supervisor, withdrew himself from managing the tests and monitoring the operations of the reactor unit. After receiving a report of the accident, he did not put into operation the system for notifying the staff. Laushkin, former state inspector of the USSR State Committee for Safety in the Atomic Power Industry, acted with criminal negligence in fulfilling his professional duty by not displaying a principled attitude or persistence in implementing the requirements of the safety rules for atomic power stations.

The panel of judges sentenced Bryukhanov, Fomin, and Dyatlov to the maximum punishment possible for these crimes by the penal code: 10 years deprivation of freedom. They sentenced Rogozhkin to 5 years, Kovalenko to 3 years and Laushkin to 2 years deprivation of freedom.

Materials relating to the belated measures to refine the design of the given type of reactor installations have been set aside from those criminal proceedings for separate proceedings and for additional investigation.

Special decisions were delivered against the USSR Ministry of Nuclear Power Industry and the USSR State Committee for Safety in the Atomic Power Industry.

The trial which has now ended, like the whole process of dealing with the accident at the Chernobyl AES, have again shown that reliable and safe operation of complex modern technology can only be guaranteed where there is a high level of discipline, organization, competence and responsibility on the part of cadres.

SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDIUM CRITICIZES GAS MINISTRY

PM300957 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Jul 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Session"]

[Text] A USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session chaired by A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, was held in the Kremlin on 24 July.

The presidium discussed the results of the examination of the proposals and observations submitted by the chambers' standing commissions and by deputies at the Fifth and Sixth Sessions of the USSR Supreme Soviet. A report was heard on the subject from V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. A joint report by the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers Budget and Planning Commissions was presented by A.A. Khomyakov, deputy chairman of the Soviet of the Union Budget and Planning Commission. G.L. Medvedev, USSR first deputy minister of the timber, pulp and paper, and wood processing industry, and A.G. Rutskoy, USSR first deputy minister of chemical and petroleum machine building, took part in the discussion.

The resolution adopted on this issue notes that the USSR Government, USSR ministries and departments, and the union republics' Councils of Ministers discussed in good time the proposals and observations made by deputies and the chambers' standing commissions and are taking them into account in their practical activity to fulfill the 12th 5-Year Plan. Many of the commissions' proposals have been reflected in the corresponding USSR Council of Ministers resolutions.

At the same time, some ministries and departments, and also some of the union republics' Councils of Ministers are slow to restructure their work in line with the requirements of the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee January and June (1987) Plenums and are failing to show the proper persistence in implementing commissions' and deputies' proposals to improve management of the economic sector under their jurisdiction. There are still serious shortcomings regarding ministries conveying plan targets to the enterprises concerned and in ensuring the balanced nature of production and material supply plans. There are still significant oversights in organizational work and cases of contractual and financial discipline being breached. As a result of this, there were interruptions in the work of a number of the country's national economic sectors in the first half of this year.

The number of associations and enterprises that have failed to meet their contractual obligations regarding output deliveries has not diminished. The volume of their output delivery shortfalls has actually increased. The advantages of the new economic mechanism are still not being used properly in sectors that have switched to full economic accountability and self-financing.

There has been an extremely inadequate increase in consumer goods output and the range and quality of these goods are only slowly improving. Plans for paid services for the population are not being fulfilled.

A considerable number of industrial plants and installations, including those of very great importance to the national economy, are not being commissioned on time.

Many ministries and departments, union republics' Councils of Ministers, and local soviets still devote little attention to developing the social and cultural sphere and strengthening its material and technical base.

A number of ministries and departments are failing to improve the standard of their economic work and are falling short of their budget targets. The USSR State Budget revenue plan was not fulfilled in the first half of the year.

Proceeding from party directives and the resolution adopted by the Seventh USSR Supreme Soviet Session, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium recommended that the USSR Council of Ministers consistently improve the management of the national economy; make greater demands on USSR ministries and departments and the union republics' Councils of Ministers to vigorously implement the course aimed at accelerating socioeconomic development, bringing order and discipline to all components, ensuring the timely, qualitative preparation of all economic sectors for transferring to full economic accountability and self-financing, and unconditionally fulfilling plans and obligations for 1987; and, to these ends, make fuller use of the reserves indicated in the conclusions of the chambers' standing commissions and deputies' speeches at the sessions.

Attention was drawn to serious shortcomings and oversights in the activity of many ministries and departments in fulfilling electoral mandates within their competence that have been given to USSR Supreme Soviet deputies. Work in this area is often erratic and lacking in the necessary effort. USSR Government instructions on this question are not being fully implemented. This primarily applies to the USSR Ministry of the Gas Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Medical and Microbiological Industry, and also some other departments.

USSR ministries, state committees, and departments are instructed to carefully analyze progress made in fulfilling approved electoral mandates and implement exhaustive measures to complete work concerning mandates in 1988, as their fulfillment is envisaged within the term of office of the USSR Supreme Soviet 11th Convocation.

Guided by party decisions, the union republics' Supreme Soviet Presidiums and Councils of Ministers must persistently implement measures to further enhance the role and responsibiliy of local soviets and their ispolkoms in the task of accelerating socioeconomic development. They must pay special attention to and ensure the unconditional fulfillment of targets for reinforcing the sociocultural sphere's material and technical base and intensify work to reveal and utilize potential for increasing the growth rate of consumer goods production and expanding paid services to meet popular demand.

Then the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium discussed soviet work in the Kara-Kalpak ASSR to safeguard socialist property. A report was delivered by T.A. Yeshimbetova, chairman of the Kara-Kalpak ASSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. A report was also delivered by N.R. Radzhabov, first secretary of the Namangan Uzbek Communist Party Obkom, on behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet deputies who had familiarized themselves with the state of affairs on the spot. I.B. Usmankhodzhayev, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, S.B. Tatliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and B.V. Zabotin, USSR deputy minister of internal affairs, took part in the discussion.

The presidium discussed the issue of work by legal bodies concerning legal services for the public. A report was heard from B.V. Kravstov, USSR minister of justice. Deputy A.Ya. Rybakov, chairman of the Machine Building and Instrument Making Workers Trade Union Central Committee, spoke on behalf of the group of USSR Supreme Soviet deputies which had studied the working practice of legal bodies in connection with legal services for the public. P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, Ya.Ya. Vagris, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and S.I. Gusev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Court, took part in discussing the issue.

The resolutions adopted on these issues will be published in the press.

ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL REPORTS SHORTCOMINGS

PM281513 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Concern for Nature"]

[Text] A routine session of the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium Commission for Environmental Protection and the Rational Utilization of Natural Resources was held 20 July.

The commission examined the "Environmental Protection and Utilization of Natural Resources" section of the draft state plan for the economic and social development of the USSR in 1988. It was noted that in a number of basic indicators the draft falls short of the targets set for the year in the 5-year plan and does not fully accord with party and government demands on considerably intensifying work on prompts and fully solving tasks associated with improving the environment and ensuring the consistent and persistent implementation of nature-conservation measures at enterprises. Not enough work is planned on saving water, reducing the level of atmopsheric pollution in Kemerovo, Chelyabinsk, Krasnoyarsk, Aktyubinsk, Dzhambul, and Chimkent, making comprehensive use of mineral raw materials, protecting land against flooding or waterlogging, and certain other indicators.

USSR ministries and departments and union republic councils of ministers were instructed to further scrutinize the draft plan for nature conservation in 1988 with the view to improving its indicators.

The USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry, the USSR Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy, the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the USSR Ministry of Mineral Fertilizer Production, the USSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry, the USSR Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation, the USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry, and other USSR ministries and departments, as well as the union republic councils of ministers are instructed to examine the causes of the lag in the first 6 months of the year in the fulfillment of the plan for commissioning nature-conservation facilities at their enterprises and to adopt measures to ensure the fulfillment of the annual plan targets.

There was consideration of the question of protecting populated points, enterprises, and other facilities, as well as land areas against mud flows, avalanches, landslides, and cave-ins. The commission noted that despite great annual economic and social losses most union republics have failed to create integral systems for monitoring and anticipating potentially adverse hydrometeorological phenomena and geological processes. The systematic approach to protection work is still lacking and it is frequently carried out on an emergency-recovery basis. The funds allocated for this purpose are inadequate and, moreover, are not assimilated satisfactorily. Coordination of scientific research in this sphere needs to be further improved.

Measures have been outlined on anticipating adverse natural phenomena and protecting the population and national economic facilities against them. Ministries and departments which have enterprises in areas prone to mud flows, avalanches, and landslides are instructed to join union republic councils of ministers in determining which facilities need protection and earmarking the material resources for the protection work.

The question of improving ministries' and departments' work on providing the media with materials on ecological problems was considered.

The commission session was chaired by V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

PLANNED PAY REFORMS, INCENTIVES DISCUSSED

LD291240 Moscow TASS in English 1143 GMT 29 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 29 TASS -- 70 per cent of the oil industry workers of the USSR have had their wages raised in the current year. The rest will have wages increased in the next four months. Wages of miners and some other categories of the working people are being raised.

Workers in production industries are having their basic wage and salary rates raised since last year, a TASS correspondent has learnt at the USSR State Labour and Social Welfare Committee.

The wage and salary reform is a major socio-economic measure in the current five-year period (1986-1990). The aim of the reform is to strengthen social justice -- to pay everyone depending on his labour quantity and quality.

The worker basic wage rate will grow approximately by 25 per cent, while that of engineers and technicians -- almost by a third. Special attention will be paid to encouraging those engaged in designing, introducing and maintaining new equipment.

The reform will involve 175 millions, or two-thirds of the employed population in the USSR. It embraces not only wages and salaries but also the whole material incentive mechanism, including the bonus system, additional payments and increments.

One more specific feature of the reform is that the money for it will not go from the State Budget. It will be earned by the work personnels themselves through improving the entire economic activities of the enterprise or the institution. The higher are the profits, the more money will go for material encouragement. Team or production shop members will decide themselves what incentive should be given and to whom. Conditions are there being created for every employed person to be striving to work in the best possible and efficient way.

NAVY DAY INTERVIEW WITH ADMIRAL SMIRNOV

PM3O1533 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jul 87 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Admiral of the Fleet N. Smirnov, first deputy commander in chief of the Navy, by Captain 1st Rank S. Bystrov under the rubric "Navy Today" and headlined "People, Ships, the Ocean" -- first paragraph is KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] Just prior to Navy Day, Captain 1st Rank S. Bystrov, editor of the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Navy Combat Training Desk, met with Admiral of the Fleet N. Smirnov, first deputy commander in chief of the Navy, and asked him to answer the newspaper's questions.

[Bystrov] Comrade Admiral of the Fleet, as usual when we celebrate Navy Day, we say that our fleet is getting younger all the time and is being renewed. Ships that have served their time are being decommissioned and more sophisticated ones are replacing them....

[Smirnov] Yes, the names of many of the new ships already are well known. The cruisers Kirov, Frunze, Slava, and Marshal Ustinov, for example. The reduction in the age of the fleet is advancing quite rapidly. But not only is new equipment being created, new crews are too. This is a particularly important process because the new crews contribute something of their own, something new, and strengthen and develop the Navy's best traditions. For example, the recently commissioned missile cruiser Marshal Ustinov has given a very good account of itself. The ship (which is under a comparatively young commander, Captain 2d Rank V. Beregin) quickly passed its state trials with flying colors and has achieved a high level of organization of service and regulation order. Such a ship is a valuable addition to a formation and the fleet.

The fleet will soon be reinforced by another ship of the same type: the cruiser Chervona Ukraina. It is noteworthy that this will take place in the year of the 70th jubilee of Great October, whose gains were courageously defended during the Great Patriotic War by the cruiser Chervona Ukraina, for which the modern ship is named.

There is probably no need to describe modern missile cruisers; the press already has written quite a lot about them. The same is true of the large antisubmarine ships. I will give the names of just a few of them: Marshal Vasilevskiy, Marshal Shaposhnikov, Admiral Tributs, Admiral Spiridonov, and Admiral Zakharov.

Perhaps I also could mention a few large landing ships, such as the Aleksandr Nikolayev and Ivan Rogov. They are interesting from the standpoint of improved design and their considerable landing potential.

[Bystrov] It is well known that today's Navy is very diverse in its makeup and comprises hundreds of units, ranging from small auxiliary craft to strategic nuclear submarines. The upkeep, operation, repair, and renewal of this large quantity of combat equipment must clearly be very complex. What problems exist here?

[Smirnov] There are quite a few problems. This is natural. But they should not, as the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum pointed out, be allowed to build up; they must be energetically and boldly tackled and new ways and opportunities must be discovered. One problem, which is still proving difficult to solve, is that of improving the fleet's repair service. We do not yet have the ability to promptly repair all ships and vessels. [paragraph continues]

Repair work often takes too long, and the quality is not always satisfactory. If one ship takes too long to repair, another is forced to take on additional tasks and consequently gets worn out more rapidly. We also sometimes encounter the problem of a fairly new ship that requires a thorough overhaul.

I think very large reserves can be revealed by improving the existing system for organizing the repair of Navy ships and vessels and the management of repair services. The June plenum provided a detailed program for radical restructuring of the country's economic management. The implementation of the requirements of that program as applied to ship repair will be of the greatest importance to the fleet and will ensure that repair work is carried out more smoothly.

[Bystrov] Combat service in the world's oceans is one form of ships' peacetime activity. Long voyages are a responsible, complex, and labor-intensive matter and require considerable material expenditure. It is therefore natural to seek greater efficiency and economy on long voyages and to improve considerably the crews' combat skill during voyages. This is surely where the specific need for restructuring is felt most acutely; have there been positive shifts in the restructuring process?

[Smirnov] The true skill and training of commanders and ships' crews, their ability to maintain unremitting combat readiness over a long period, and the personnel's high morale and combat spirit are tested in the world's oceans under the most difficult conditions.... It represents, of course, an enormous amount of work in terms of scope, responsibility, and the number of people involved every day, hour, and minute. There is no limit to the improvement that can be made. Here it is important to grasp what the goals of the improvement are and the quickest ways to achieve them. The fleet will then not only sail and resolve everyday tasks but will build up its might in practice.

What is being done here and what can be done? Primarily, of course, improvement of management. It must optimally combine rigid centralization with necessary autonomy at the local level. The fleets, for example, now are being freed of unjustified supervision when carrying out tasks in their operational zones. This will simplify the solution of many problems and enhance the responsibility of flag officers at local level.

The interests of combat service demand improvement of its planning, more accurate, dynamic consideration of the state of forces, the allocation of the optimum reserve, and forecasting of the situation in the world's ocean....

For example, we have been able to rationally reduce the number of ships on voyages while maintaining the same combat service effectiveness by means of improved planning and higher standards of performance of tasks during long voyages.

The question of our ships' logistical support is a very serious one. The Navy has no bases outside the country. Consequently, all logistical support for ships on combat service is shipborne. The support must be prompt, complete, and economical. We are trying to make optimal use of support ships to ensure the prompt servicing of many ships and a comprehensive provision of supplies.

When seeing off their husbands on long voyages, the wives of Navy sailors never say "come back early" but "come back on time." Because ships come back ahead of time when something has happened. Early return of ships from combat service is very rare; but it must be excluded altogether. [paragraph continues]

That means that it is essential to improve the quality of the preparation of ships and the training of crews at base. The aircraft-carrying cruiser Kiev recently returned from routine combat service. It is noteworthy that this ship has carried out all its voyages very successfully. That is characteristic not only of the ship but of the formation as a whole. Unfortunately, we have not yet ensured that all Navy formations show such steadiness.

[Bystrov] The Navy always has adopted the latest scientific and technological achievements. What characterizes the present relationship between the Navy and science?

[Smirnov] Yes, the Navy traditionally has relied on science and nourished it in turn. However, it cannot be said that today's rate of development of scientific and technical progress fully meets the demands of the time. A constant balance must be maintained in relations between the Navy and science. It is very important here to rely on the results of basic research. It is that which produces the qualitatively new and revolutionary ideas indispensable for large-scale development. Only then will we be able to keep abreast of the times and march with them in development terms rather than having to catch up. Operational and tactical scientific studies are also, of course, very important. But they, too, must be backed up by basic research.

Unfortunately, not all the elements of our science are as yet adequately integrated. This means in practice that tactics, say, sometimes lack technical support or that equipment sometimes outstrips tactical studies. As a result, some ships "haul around" equipment of great potential which, however, is far from being fully utilized in practice.

The times also demand more productive work from naval scientists -- particularly the Navy Academy and scientific research institutes.

[Bystrov] It probably can be put like this: The fleet is primarily ships, but its strength is primarily people. Concern for cadres is concern for the present and future Navy. In which spheres can we really see this concern today?

[Smirnov] We are showing increasing concern to ensure the prompt selection, specialization, and vocational guidance of future fleet officers. Yes, the demands are on sailors, particularly the officer corps, are growing all the time and problems do exist here. A high level of competition for entrants to naval colleges has been maintained steadily, but the opportunities for selecting future officers for service in the navy are still far from fully utilized. As a result, a phenomenon has occurred which was virtually absent before: Some graduates of naval colleges trained for service on board ship seek a transfer to shore duty as quickly as possible. The taxing service at sea proves too much for them morally and physically.

Yes, service on board ship is difficult. Some young people today, raised in affluence and comfort and sometimes pampered by "solicitous" parents, find it very difficult to adapt to the -- to be blunt -- rigorous and demanding life of a ship's officer. That is why the question of how to recruit officers and petty officers who are sincere and committed in their devotion to the Navy and who possess courage and qualities of high morality and willpower is a particularly acute one today. It represents a real, vital need.

It also needs to be bluntly stated that someone working for a long time away from shore and family under particularly difficult conditions must, in addition to everything else, be morally and psychologically interested. [paragraph continues]

This cannot be disregarded. "The whole point of restructuring," the June plenum stressed, "in the final analysis is to take account of people's interests, to influence those interests, and to use them in management." We now see the implementation of this guideline as one of our most important tasks.

[Bystrov] The problem of how to enhance the prestige of sea-going personnel, as can be judged even by our editorial mail, acutely worries the fleet. This newspaper already has written about measures taken so far and will continue to do so. What information in this regard can we give our readers today?

[Smirnov] The problem, as I have already said, exists, the Navy command is fully aware of it, and we have begun tackling it on a broad front on the basis of public opinion and local initiative. A competent commission has been set up which will carry out considerable work in generalizing local suggestions and elaborate the necessary practical measures. These include, for example, the already established ceremony of an officer taking command of his ship, supervision of officers on shore leave and the stepped up demands made on them to observe order there, and the mandatory provision of one day off per week for every officer while his ship is at base. The procedure for ensuring that supply organs meet all ships' needs is being reexamined. Instructions establishing strict monitoring of the planning and use of leave by ships' officers and petty officers and the priority allocation to them of warrants for sanatoria and leisure and tourist centers have been issued. New regulations have been drawn up for the award of the badge of "Ship Commander" and "Submarine Commander," and the design of a new "Long Voyage" medal and new regulations for it have been prepared for issue...

All this work must, of course, be backed up by energetic, resourceful action, including increased educational work at local level, on the part of petty officers, staffs, political organs, and party organizations, which is lacking at present.

[Bystrov] Naturally, ships' commanders always have been and remain the focus of attention in the fleet. What is the modern commander like, in your view? What could our Soviet ship commander be like in the future?

[Smirnov] Our present-day ship commander is well-educated, possesses a high level of operation, tactical, and engineering skills, is physically strong, and is endowed with high moral and political qualities. Unfortunately, he does not yet show sufficient independence.

The present commander is capable of the most complex tasks. He does not avoid them. He is a good sailor, is devoted to his work, and possesses greater sailing qualifications than ever before.

The commander of the future will, in my view, be a more widely and comprehensively educated officer. During restructuring he will acquire greater independence and responsibility, which will help develop the best qualities of a commander. He will be relieved of a mass of secondary routine concerns, which will enable him to really concern himself with training his subordinates and allow his talent and creative potential to be more fully revealed in practice.

NAVY STAFF CHIEF WRITE ON NAVY DAY JUBILEE

PM310955 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Jul 87 p 3

[Interview with Admiral K.V. Makarov, chief of Navy Main Staff, by unidentified SELSKAYA ZHIZN correspondent under the rubric "Today Is USSR Navy Day" and headlined "Guarding the Maritime Borders" -- date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [SELSKAYA ZHIZN] What does the modern Navy represent?

[Makarov] The development of the Soviet Navy always was closely linked with the latest achievements of science and technology. But, of course, never in the history of the Armed Forces have the achievements of science been as widely used in military matters in general and in the Navy, in particular, as they are today.

The modern Navy is a most complex combat organism. It possesses great firepower, great mobility, and the capability to conduct combat operations in various regions of the world's oceans. The Navy contains practically all types of troops within its ranks in the necessary proportions. It is difficult to overestimate the role in modern combat operations of a fleet of nuclear-powered strategic and multipurpose submarines, naval aviation, surface ships of various specifications, marines, and shore-based missile and artillery units.

Warships such as nuclear submarines are the most sophisticated and the most powerful. The most complex types of weapons, automated equipment, and electronics are concentrated on these. They can travel without restrictions of range and time. Nuclear-powered ships successfully combine such qualities as stealth, mobility, and colossal strike power. These ships have rightly occupied the leading place in the Navy's composition. They are capable of successfully resolving their tasks in the struggle with an enemy's naval strike forces.

New-generation ships also have joined the surface forces and are being successfully assimilated. These are aircraft-carrying cruisers of the Kiev and Novorossiysk class, Kirov-class missile cruisers, modern ASW ships, destroyers, and high-mobility high-speed ships. Experience in using them has enabled us to revise certain traditional opinions and principles for conducting naval operations and combat actions at sea.

Many cock-and-bull stories are spread in the West both about our country as a whole and its Armed Forces and about the Navy in particular. I do not want to enter into polemics about whether the Soviet Union is a continental or a maritime power. I will only say that the extent of the Soviet sea borders is more than double the combined length of the Atlantic and Pacific seaboards of the United States. With regard to the improvement of the Navy, the Soviet Union has never set itself the goal of military superiority over a potential adversary. Therefore, our improvement of the forces and means of armed struggle has been and will remain -- I stress this -- forced on us through necessity.

But the transoceanic strategists are obsessed by the fixed idea "to transform the Soviet Union into an isolated island" and "secure for the United States undisputed possession of the rest of the world." Whipping up a naval arms race, they are rapidly building up the quantitative composition of their Navy and are arming themselves with increasingly destructive weapons systems. The Washington administration regards naval forces as a most important instrument for achieving its military and political goals.

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN] These preparations are intended for war. But how do you rate the actions of the U.S. Navy in ordinary peacetime conditions?

[Makarov] Indisputably dangerous. The danger consists precisely of the fact that by their actions the U.S. Navy is transforming ordinary, as you say, peacetime conditions into emergency conditions capable of leading to the outbreak of a military conflict, with unpredictable consequences. The latest example of this is the exacerbation -- for which Washington is to blame -- of the situation in the Persian Gulf, where the Pentagon has begun the operation it formulated to escort Kuwaiti tankers under U.S. flags. Its scale is impressive. The U.S. Navy's "Near Eastern Strike Grouping" is carrying out the escort operations. Air cover is provided by deck-borne aircraft of the aircraft carrier Constellation.

[SELSKAYA ZHIZN] What conclusion can be drawn from this, Comrade Admiral?

[Makarov] There can be one conclusion -- to step up vigilance and combat readiness among the Navy's ships and units, strengthen discipline, and improve the combat skills of our military seamen. There is no more important task today. For military cadres in general and for seamen in particular the party's demand for them to maintain the country's defense capability at a level that excludes imperialism's military-political superiority is the determining factor. [passage omitted]

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON CENTRAL ASIAN MILITARY MEETING

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[Report by unidentified KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent under general heading: "From Critical Positions"]

[Text] Red Banner Central Asian Military District -- The tasks of the commanders, political organs, and party organizations in fulfilling the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum and the party instructions for the further improving of the troops' combat readiness were discussed by a meeting of the Central Asian Military District held here. Colonel General A. Kovtunov, commander of the district, delivered a report.

The report and the speeches delivered by Lieutenant General G. Kochkin, member of the military council and chief of the political directorate of the district, and by Comrades Ye. Rusanov, A. Protsenko, A. Agafonov, V. Samsonov, and others noted that the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum makes new, heightened demands on cadres. They analyzed in depth, from keenly critical positions, the activity of the district's commanders, political organs, and party organizations in further raising combat readiness and consolidating discipline and organization. Special attention was paid to unresolved problems.

It was noted that the low level of activity, lack of resolve, and timidity of a number of directorate and staff party organizations makes it impossible to concentrate the efforts of the most skilled detachment of greatly experienced Communists on the main tasks of combat readiness. Frequently it is in these collectives that those really to blame for errors and omissions remain uncriticized and their guilt is shifted to their subordinates.

There was an analysis of shortcomings in the organization and execution of combat duty, the fulfillment of combat training plans, and in work with cadres. The speeches contained specific proposals for intensifying the restructuring process in the party organizations.

G. Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee, addressed the gathering.

A. Masaliyev, first secretary of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee, and responsible workers of the party organs of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, and Tadzhikistan took part in the work of the meeting.

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[S. Lagodskiy report: "In the Military Chief's Honor"]

[Text] A soiree devoted to the 90th anniversary of the birth of Marshal of the Soviet Union V.D. Sokolovskiy was held at the USSR Defense Ministry's club in Moscow 21 July.

The soiree, which was attended by servicemen of the capital's garrison, veterans of the Great Patriotic War, and relatives and friends of V.D. Sokolovskiy, was hosted by Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister.

Chief Marshal of Artillery V.F. Tolubko delivered a report on the life and activity of Vasiliy Danilovich Sokolovskiy, Soviet military figure.

Army General P.N. Lashchenko, Colonel General V.N. Dutov, Colonel General of Aviation N.P. Dagayev, and Colonel L.N. Kirpichnikov, retired, shared their memories of Hero of the Soviet Union V.D. Sokolovskiy, communist serviceman and ardent patriot and internationalist.